

TWO GREAT WEMBLEY FINALS PLUS SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

SHOOT!

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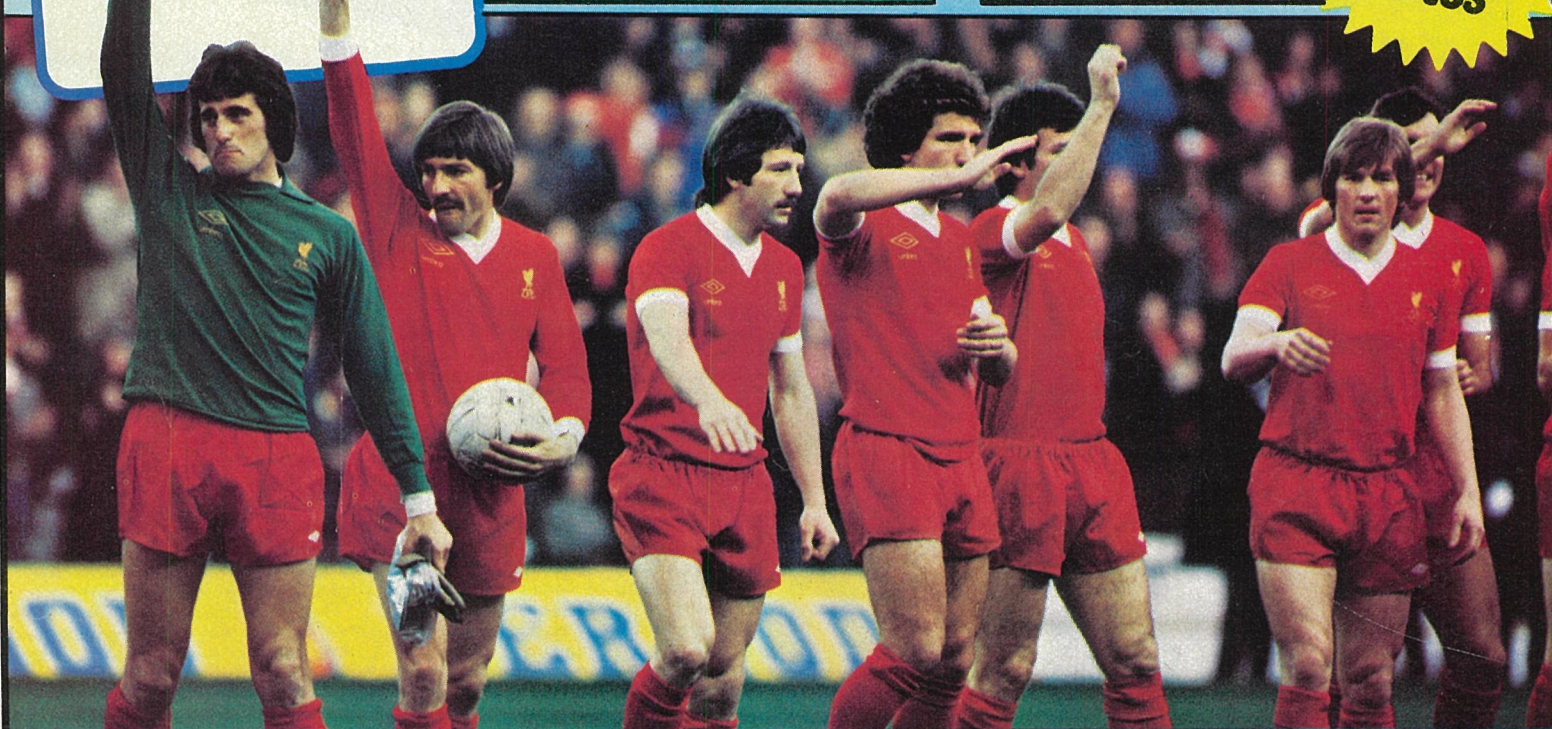
**ARSENAL
v IPSWICH**
**LIVERPOOL
v BRUGES**
**ABERDEEN
v RANGERS**



Left... Captains Pat Rice (Arsenal) and Mick Mills (Ipswich, right) opponents in the F.A. Cup Final.
Below... Will Liverpool be celebrating again after the European Cup Final?



**Special
features &
photos**



IN COLOUR: ALL THE FINALISTS+ ENGLAND v BRAZIL

Three Fascinating Finals

ENTERTAINMENT guaranteed — that's the fan-pleasing label that can be hung on every one of the three Finals in store this coming week. At Wembley, on May

6th, Arsenal and Ipswich take the stage for a Cup decider with many intriguing aspects. Can a side with a blend of bright shining young stars, such as Liam Brady, Frank Stapleton and David Price, combine with old campaigners Pat Rice, Sammy Nelson, Malcolm Macdonald and Pat Jennings to take the silverware for the Fifth time in The Gunners' history?

And can they do it with more flair than the 1971 double-winners? And will Ipswich, who have promised so much in recent years without delivering the goods, at last carry off the trophy

for the first time in their history?

At Hampden Park, Rangers are poised for a Cup double, but could be denied by Aberdeen who won the League Cup last season by beating the other branch of the Old Firm, Celtic — and, as the most-improved side in Scotland, have challenged so forcefully for the League title this time round.

Both Finals may well be overshadowed five days later when Liverpool face Bruges at Wembley for the European Cup. Here again, questions grip the mind: Can the Merseyside Reds become the first British side to retain the trophy —

and in successive years? Will the Belgian Champions avenge their defeat by Liverpool in the 1976 U.E.F.A. Cup Final? Will Kenny Dalglish equal, or even surpass, Kevin Keegan's match-winning performances in 1976 and 1977?

We set the scenes for the three Finals with interviews, assessments, comparisons, facts, figures and photos in this issue which I'm sure you'll all want to refer to on the big match days.

David Gregory

'We always make it tough for them'

MICK MILLS (Ipswich)

IT WAS only when he had fulfilled a lifelong ambition to get to Wembley that Mick Mills thought of another.

Says the Ipswich skipper: "I was so obsessed with just getting there I never really thought much about actually winning the Cup.

"Just being part of it all seemed to be enough, sharing in the glamour, the big build-up etc. But then I suddenly thought what it must be like to be a loser and I made up my mind it wasn't for me."

That's why you can expect Mills to lead his team with even more fire and determination than he normally displays when Ipswich tackle their first-ever visit to Wembley.

"It will be a fabulous day for everyone connected with the club," he says. "For years this has been the thing our supporters have wanted most of all.

"But Arsenal can forget it if they think they're going to have it easy.



We plan to fight every inch of the way in a bid to take the Cup back to Ipswich. We've forgotten all thoughts of it just being a nice day out."

Mills, who earned his 15th England cap in the recent friendly against Brazil, is having his best-ever season for the club and believes he can round it off in style at Wembley.

He goes on: "I can understand Arsenal being made favourites but we were also the underdogs in the Semi-Final and you can ask West Bromwich Albion what went wrong there.

"We had to win that one to keep

Arsenal don't have any edge when it comes to experience.

"They're one of the best sides in the country and right on form at the moment so we know we're going to have to produce our very best to have a chance."

Mills is a great believer in past results having a bearing on the Final and in this department Ipswich can take encouragement from the fact only once in the last five seasons have they lost to The Gunners, either home or away.

And he believes Terry Neill's boys don't enjoy playing against Ipswich. "Some teams can play against others but there are also those who always seem to find it tough against certain opponents.



F.A. CUP FINAL '78

THE

That's the way it is with Arsenal and ourselves," he claims.

Apart from being skipper and main inspiration to Ipswich, don't be surprised if Mills turns out to be their secret weapon at Wembley as well.

That vital goal that helped dispose of Albion in the Semi-Final was his seventh of the season. Not bad for a full-back!

And when you remember Mills missed the first nine games of the season after a cartilage operation you get some idea of his achievement in finding the net so often.

Says Mick: "Secret weapon? I don't know about that although I must admit the goals have been coming along nicely. I wouldn't say no to another one at Wembley.

"But we've got players who are better at finding the net than me. Like Paul Mariner or Brian Talbot, two players who have found their England form at just the right time.

"They'll be helping us put on a show at Wembley. There will be no prima donnas in the Ipswich side. We'll be playing the way we always play — to win.

"Only 50,000 of the crowd will be shouting for either Arsenal or Ipswich and the other 50,000 want to see a memorable game of football. That's what we plan to give them."



Arsenal's David O'Leary beats Paul Mariner of Ipswich to the ball.

'League form won't count at Wembley'

PAT RICE (Arsenal)

ARSENAL'S Pat Rice made a winning acquaintance with Wembley as a member of The Gunners' 1971 F.A. Cup Final side that beat Liverpool 2-1. And now, seven years later, the glamour has not worn off for the Northern Ireland international as he looks forward to his club's date with Ipswich Town.

"It's wonderful to be going back to Wembley as captain of Arsenal," says Pat. "Winning the League Championship demands a performance of real consistency, but a Cup Final appearance, and hopefully, a victory, is something with a magic quality about it."

As an experienced professional who made his League debut for Arsenal in January, 1968, Rice has been a regular choice since 1970. He will go into action against Ips-



wich not only as a player who has sampled a Cup triumph at Wembley, but also disappointment, when his team lost 1-0 to Leeds United a year later.

"I can still remember very clearly how Paul Reaney kicked an effort by Alan Ball off the goal-line when the score was 0-0. But at the moment, I'm more concerned with how we play against Ipswich."

"One thing is certain — Arsenal won't be bothered by the atmosphere — we have players who are used to the big occasion, including those who have turned out for their country at Wembley. Of course, so have Ipswich, so I don't think either side will be troubled with nerves."

"They have outstanding attackers such as Paul Mariner, Robin Turner and Clive Woods. And in their defence include Kevin Beattie and Allan Hunter, who I rate as their outstanding men at the back."

If position in the League, also goals scored and conceded, mean anything, then Arsenal must be

"Previous League form will count for nothing in the Final," he explains. "What a team looks for is to put their game together on the day. And at Wembley, Arsenal will be attacking and if Ipswich are in the same mood, it could be a very attractive game to watch."

"In the run-up to the Cup Final, it might be said there has been more pressure on us than Ipswich, because of our efforts to win a leading League place. But I can honestly say there has been no feeling of pressure or strain on us."

"The team who gave us our hardest match in the F.A. Cup was Wrexham, who in front of their own crowd of enthusiastic Welsh supporters, made us battle every inch of the way. At no time during the 90 minutes were we able to relax and coast along."

'A Grip'

"Against Orient, we had made up our minds to get a grip on the game as soon as we could, and by half-time we felt we had got over the worst. Arsenal had their share of the breaks, and in the second-half the going was easier."

"Malcolm Macdonald was on the target, and we know he is a goalscorer. And if Malcolm is in scoring vein in the Final, we'll be happy. At any event, we'll be there to make things as difficult as possible for Ipswich — and we are sure they won't make it easy for us."

Asked to forecast a scoreline, Pat points out that Wembley predictions are notoriously unreliable — but, nevertheless, takes on the task.

"Knowing what I do about both sides, their attacking and defensive capabilities, I think the result could be 2-1 — with Arsenal in front."

CAPTAINS

considered to be Wembley favourites — they have been among the leading clubs chasing Nottingham Forest, and have scored more goals and conceded less than Ipswich. But Rice refuses to take First Division statistics into account.

IPSWICH TOWN

1936
1961-62

1960-61
NIL
NIL
NIL
NIL
NIL
NIL

£200,000 to Plymouth for Paul Mariner in October, 1976

£200,000 from Liverpool for David Johnson in August, 1976

10-0 v Floriana (Malta), European Cup, First Round, September 25th, 1962

1-10 v Fulham, Division One, December 26th, 1963

Allan Hunter has won 40 of his 46 caps for N. Ireland while with Ipswich
Kevin Beattie, Allan Hunter, Paul Mariner, Mick Mills, Brian Talbot, Colin Viljoen, Trevor Whymark

64 in Division Three (South), 1953-54 and 1955-56

106 in Division Three (South) 1955-56
Ted Phillips 41 in Division Three (South) 1956-57

38,010 v Leeds United, F.A. Cup, Sixth Round, March 8th, 1975

428 by Tom Parker from 1946-57

A. Scott Duncan, Alf Ramsey, Jackie Milburn, Bill McGarry and Bobby Robson

FACTS ABOUT THE FINALISTS

YEAR TURNED PROFESSIONAL
FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

F.A. CUP WINNERS

F.A. CUP RUNNERS-UP

LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

LEAGUE CUP RUNNERS-UP

EUROPEAN TROPHIES WON

RUNNERS-UP IN EUROPEAN FINALS

RECORD TRANSFER FEE PAID

RECORD TRANSFER FEE RECEIVED

RECORD CLUB VICTORY

RECORD CLUB DEFEAT

MOST CAPPED PLAYER

CURRENT FULL INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

MOST LEAGUE POINTS IN A SEASON

MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN A SEASON
HIGHEST LEAGUE SCORER IN A SEASON

RECORD ATTENDANCE

MOST LEAGUE APPEARANCES
MANAGERS SINCE WORLD WAR TWO

ARSENAL

1891

1930-31, 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, 1937-38, 1947-48, 1952-53, 1970-71

NIL

1929-30, 1935-36, 1949-50, 1970-71

1926-27, 1931-32, 1951-52, 1971-72

NIL

1967-68, 1968-69

European Fairs Cup 1969-70

NIL

£333,333 to Newcastle United for Malcolm Macdonald in August, 1976

£180,000 from Liverpool for Ray Kennedy in July, 1974

12-0 v Loughborough Town, Division Two, March 12th, 1900

0-8 v Loughborough Town, Division Two, December 12th, 1896

Terry Neill won 44 of his 59 caps for Northern Ireland while with Arsenal

Liam Brady, Alan Hudson, Pat Jennings, Malcolm Macdonald, Sammy Nelson, David O'Leary, Pat Rice, Frank Stapleton

66 in Division One, 1930-31

127 in Division One, 1930-31

Ted Drake 42 in Division One, 1934-35

73,295 v Sunderland, Division One, March 9th, 1935

500 by George Armstrong from 1960-77

George Allison, Tom Whittaker, Jack Crayson, George Swindin, Billy Wright, Bertie Mee and Terry Neill



**F.A. CUP
FINAL '78**

FORECASTS

by the stars

SHOOT asked a representative from each of the 20 other First Division clubs to predict who will take this season's F.A. Cup — and why.

ANDY GRAY
Aston
Villa



Ipswich Town for me. They saw off West Brom in the Semi-Finals much more easily than anyone thought, and something tells me they'll win the Cup. Ipswich haven't been amongst the honours for a long time and their players will be determined to win. I see their key players as Kevin Beattie at the back, Paul Mariner and Clive Woods up-front and the very under-estimated Scots lad John Wark in midfield.

TREVOR FRANCIS
Birmingham
City



It's a shame one of the clubs has got to end up as losers. They're both very good sides. I have great admiration for the two teams because I have become very friendly with the lads in the Arsenal and Ipswich camps. Both teams have a tremendous striking power in Malcolm Macdonald and Paul Mariner so there should be plenty of goals to enjoy. A 2-2 draw looks a realistic result.

GEOFF MERRICK
Bristol
City



On current form it's got to be Arsenal's Cup. Ipswich have the players in Mick Mills and Allan Hunter who can turn a game. Mills will give 100 per cent and the Northern Ireland defender is playing as well as ever and could cause some trouble. Both players have experience of the Wembley atmosphere. Arsenal's midfield is very good indeed, and that's where the game is going to be won. Let's hope both sides can get rid of those eary nerves and treat us to a good Final.

PETER BONETTI
Chelsea



Arsenal must be favourites because they are higher in the First Division than their opponents Ipswich Town. The North London club are better equipped for the big occasion and Wembley is THE place. I can't see a weakness in the Arsenal side. Having said that, though, anything can happen in the F.A. Cup Final. How many times have the underdogs triumphed? It could go either way but I have a sneaking feeling Arsenal will emerge on top.



JIM BLYTH
Coventry
City

There's only one side that's going to collect the Cup — Arsenal. The Gunners are very good in every department and I can't imagine them falling at the final hurdle. Most teams have a weakness but looking through the Arsenal line-up I can't see any. They're so strong in midfield. Brady, Hudson and Price are playing exceptionally well. And with Frank Stapleton and Malcolm Macdonald up-front, the winners must be Arsenal.



CHARLIE GEORGE
Derby
County

There is just no way I can see Arsenal losing. For me, they have the players for the big occasion and are at present going through a spell where they are getting better and better. The only real chance Ipswich Town have, even with good players like Paul Mariner and Kevin Beattie, is if they employ man-to-man marking. But then I still feel my former club will have the match-winners.



GORDON LEE
Everton

I'm going against the tide in choosing the F.A. Cup winners for this season. When we played Ipswich Town at Goodison Park recently I thought they played very well, considering they had so many of their top class players out through injury. They fought for every ball; their workrate was tremendous, and Wembley is all about that. Ipswich have the stamina to last the pace, that's why I can see them bringing home the F.A. Cup.



DAVID HARVEY
Leeds
United

I'm confident the Final will end in a draw and go to a replay. I just cannot pin-point who is going to take the Cup, because both sides are well organised and so evenly balanced. Ipswich rely on their tremendous workrate, pumping balls up-front to Paul Mariner. On the other hand, Arsenal have a lot of ball-players. Supermac knows he owes the public a Wembley show and it could be this year. A replay for me.



DAVID WEBB
Leicester City

It must be Arsenal, although it should be close. The Gunners have hit the right sort of form at the correct time, that's why I predict Arsenal to carry the Cup home. There are no weaknesses in the two sides but I see my former club-mate Alan Hudson being the man of the match. The big pitch will suit his sort of play. He likes to slow the game down and play it his way. These are the games he thrives on. It's a win for Arsenal.



KENNY DALGLISH
Liverpool

Ipswich and Arsenal are two very fine sides, and evenly matched. Malcolm Macdonald will find it hard against Kevin Beattie and Allan Hunter. And in the Town line-up they have another tremendous striker in Paul Mariner. But The Gunners will have the in-form Willie Young and David O'Leary cancelling him out. I cannot make up my mind who's going to lift the trophy, so I can see the game going to a draw.



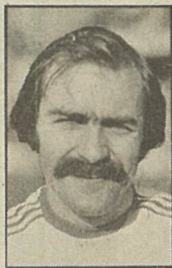
MIKE CHANNON
Manchester City

I don't know why, but I fancy the lads from the backwoods — Ipswich Town. I would love to see them win by 1-0 with a cracking goal from Town striker Paul Mariner. I've got to know Paul from the England get-togethers. Although Arsenal are strong in midfield, I favour Bobby Robson's lads because they have 11 fighters and I am sure they won't let Arsenal settle down. So I go for a 1-0 win to Ipswich.



MARTIN BUCHAN
Manchester United

When Arsenal outclassed little Orient, the other Semi-Final didn't even spring to mind. They've got the players who can combat any sort of threat. Malcolm Macdonald, who is always likely to score and not forgetting Liam Brady in midfield. He's having a great season. Sorry, Ipswich, I don't think it's going to be your year. The name that's going to be engraved on the Cup is — Arsenal.



TERRY COOPER
M'boro

It's going to be a tremendous game with Ipswich Town just sneaking in. The Portman Road club have had a cruel run of injuries, and providing they can get most of their star players fit in time then I honestly believe they will win, 2-1. For me, the form of Allan Hunter and Kevin Beattie at the back and Paul Mariner up-front could hold the key to a surprise victory for Town.



IRVING NATTRASS
Newcastle United

Liam Brady's outstanding class in midfield and Malcolm Macdonald's deadly finishing up-front should prove too much for Ipswich Town. The Gunners are a good side and are putting their game together at just the right time. They are playing with a lot of confidence and are the obvious favourites. I see no reason to change my mind. It's got to be Arsenal.



MARTIN PETERS
Norwich City

Unless Ipswich Town score in the first 20 minutes, Arsenal will prove too strong for our East Anglian rivals. I've a feeling that Ipswich's all-action style of football will not be suited to the vast open spaces of Wembley Stadium. They will have to do a lot of hard running and chasing for each other. No, I go for the lads from Highbury.



JOHN ROBERTSON
Nottingham Forest

I plump for Arsenal because they are slightly the stronger side. To me, the big influence on the game will be The Gunners' Liam Brady. He is a super player with a lot of style and vision. He can change a game dramatically with one sweet pass. The front-runners thrive off the Republic of Ireland international. Not many goals are scored in the Final and it will be close, but Terry Neill's lads will win.



LEIGHTON JAMES
Queens Park Rangers

Our rivals from North London will have no trouble at all in winning the F.A. Cup. Although it will be by the odd goal. They're going to be the side that will rise to the occasion. The Gunners have one of the most prolific goalscorers in Malcolm Macdonald, supplied by his partner, Frank Stapleton. Providing they put their game together Arsenal won't have any trouble.



JOHN WILE
West Brom

Saturday's clash is going to be a very close affair. Ipswich run and work hard for each other and if they manage to score first — as they did against us in the Semis — then Arsenal will find it difficult to break them down. The Gunners on the other hand are a side with quality. Their patient build-up enables the whole side to be involved and that's essential. If I'm pushed into making a prediction then I must go for Arsenal.



BILLY BONDS
West Ham

I think the Final is going to be very close this season. Arsenal are a polished side with a lot of ability while the Ipswich Town lads are prepared to run and work very hard for each other. Games are often won and lost in the midfield and I feel this is where The Gunners will clinch the tie. Players like Brady and Hudson have class written all over them and unless Ipswich counter this Arsenal will scrape home.



JOHN RICHARDS
Wolves

The experienced players of Arsenal will be enough to lift the F.A. Cup at Wembley. The midfield at Highbury should wear down their opponents and supply the ammunition for the likes of Malcolm Macdonald, Frank Stapleton and Alan Sunderland to fire. I hope Alan makes the Final because he has enjoyed a fine season until he was injured. And as he's an ex-team-mate of mine, I naturally hope The Gunners win.

SUMMARY

As expected, the majority tipped favourites Arsenal — as indeed do the SHOOT staff. Liam Brady and Malcolm Macdonald are expected to be the match-winners for The

Gunners. Whatever happens, we hope the game is not a disappointment to the capacity crowd at Wembley and the millions tuning in on TV and radio.

THE MEN WHO MASTERMIND THE TACTICS...

'I want my players to put on a good show'

ARSENAL'S TERRY NEILL

TALK to Terry Neill about Arsenal playing at Wembley and you get the impression the likeable Irishman has had nothing to do with it.

He is full of praise for everybody around him — his players, Wilf Dixon, his assistant, and coach extraordinaire Don Howe. But quietly Neill knows that he, more than anyone, has put his old club back on the football map.

Neill is just completing his second year as manager at Highbury, and the transformation brought about in that time is remarkable.

Astute dealing in the transfer market is a major reason. Neill's first signing when he arrived at Arsenal was Malcolm Macdonald, who repaid a large slice of his £333,333 fee last season with 29 goals.

Added to Macdonald's scoring talent was the style and class of Alan Hudson, now showing why Neill paid £200,000 to Stoke City for him.

But it was from neighbours Tottenham that Neill "stole" the backbone of his team — goalkeeper Pat Jennings and Willie Young.

Jennings, at 32, is still one of the best goalkeepers in the world. He signed for £40,000 in August 1977. And then there was Willie...

The new hero of Arsenal's popular North Bank — Willie Young, who followed Neill to Highbury for £80,000.

Neill will not be drawn into putting Arsenal's success down to four men: "They are part of what we believe is going to be a great team," he says.

'Attitude'

"Naturally I'm pleased for Willie. He took a lot of stick when he came here, but he stuck to his job and the fans' change in attitude is remarkable."

When Neill leads Arsenal out at Wembley he will be joining a select band of managers who have played in a Cup Final team, then returned to the stadium as manager of the same club.

Neill was a member of Arsenal's 1968 League Cup team beaten 1-0 by Leeds. He missed the 1969 Final through illness when Arsenal were beaten 3-1 by Swindon. "No one wants to lose at Wembley," says Neill. "But when it happens it strengthens the determination of a team to get back again and prove they are winners."



"Arsenal lost those two Finals, but the majority of those teams played in the 1971 'double' winning outfit."

That point is emphasised further by the current F.A. Cup holders Manchester United, beaten in 1976 by Southampton but victorious last season over Liverpool.

"I want my players to put on a good show on May 6," says Neill. "I'm delighted they are in the Final. It is their reward for playing football all season."

The pattern for that football has been worked out by Neill, Don Howe and Wilf Dixon. The three of them are close friends and extraordinarily have been together most of their football lives.

Neill and Don Howe played together at Arsenal in the early Sixties. Neill was beginning his distinguished career when Don Howe joined the club from West Bromwich in the twilight of his.

Howe had played under Wilf Dixon at West Bromwich. When Neill left Arsenal to take over as player-manager at Hull City, Dixon joined him as assistant.

Before he left Arsenal, Neill had played with most of the 1971 'double' team. But he will not be drawn on comparing that team with his.

"Comparisons are not fair, either to the current team or the double winners," he says.

And Neill is happy about Arsenal's opponents. "Nobody deserves to go to Wembley more than Bobby Robson," he says. "That is his reward for his loyalty."

"Bobby is part of a wonderful club. I have the highest regard and admiration for everybody connected with Ipswich."

'Biggest thing that has happened to the club'

IPSWICH'S BOBBY ROBSON

WEMBLEY holds pleasant memories for Ipswich manager Bobby Robson.

In eight international matches there for England he never appeared on the losing side and he scored four goals.

But when he returns to lead his side out for the F.A. Cup Final it will be his biggest thrill in almost 30 years in football.

Robson, a skilful wing-half with Fulham and West Bromwich Albion, explains: "In 20 years as a player the one thing I wanted was to play for my club at Wembley. It never came about, but going there as manager will do me."

"I'm just as thrilled for the players as I am for myself. Lads like Mick Mills, who has given Ipswich 13 years of marvellous service and deserves his reward, and Allan Hunter, a great character and a big favourite with the fans."

'Disappointment'

"Getting to Wembley this year helps make up for the huge disappointment of three years ago when we lost a Semi replay to West Ham at Stamford Bridge."

"The scene in our dressing-room that night was a terrible experience — mature professionals with tears streaming down their faces. I hoped there and then that they would get their chance again."

Robson scoffs at suggestions that Ipswich are just going along to Wembley to make up the numbers. He says: "We may be the country cousins in a geographical sense but that's all."

"There was a time when we felt that getting to Wembley would be enough but as soon as we'd done it everyone knew this wasn't the case. We're going there to win."

"Just as our depth of experience got us this far it can also win us the Cup. We've players who have played at the very highest level of club and international football so I cannot understand those people who see it as cut and dried."

"They're looking at our League record, of course, and that has been very disappointing. I'm not one for excuses but I have never known the injury situation to be so serious in my nine years with Ipswich."

But if Ipswich have faltered in the League this season Robson is



quick to point to his club's record in the previous five seasons when they were never out of the First Division's top six.

"That's a record of consistency only Liverpool can better," he says. "The one thing that has been missing has been success in a major competition. That's why so many people have put a question mark against us."

"Wembley gives us a chance to provide them with the right answer. It's the biggest thing that has ever happened to the club."

Despite the occasion, however, Robson does not intend to alter his team's preparation any more than necessary.

"We've got a bit of a tradition at Ipswich for a special lunch on the Thursday of Cup week. It's something that we started a few years back and it's good for team spirit. The lads are keen that we do the same before the Final."

"The lunch is being brought forward to the Wednesday and then we're heading off to a hotel to get away from it all before Wembley. The pressure will really be on by then."

While the players do battle out on the pitch, Robson will only be seated a few feet away from his pal, Arsenal coach Don Howe.

"We've been friends since our playing days with West Bromwich Albion," says Robson who has teamed up with Howe again this season to run the England 'B' side.

Their friendship will be forgotten for 90 minutes, however, although they will probably be first to congratulate each other at the end.



F.A. CUP
FINAL '78

THE MEN WHO'LL BE GOING FOR GOALS...

'Why it must be third time lucky for me'

ARSENAL'S MALCOLM MACDONALD

I AM going to collect my first winner's medal on Saturday. Not because I believe in third time lucky and not because I think I have any divine right to success. But simply because I am playing for a first class team.

The F.A. Cup Final clash between Arsenal and Ipswich Town promises to be close, hard-fought and a game both sides will have to contest for every one of the 90 minutes. They could also face a demanding half hour of extra-time.

But however long it takes, I am convinced we have the edge in every department and a decided advantage in one or two.

When I played for Newcastle United in the 1974 F.A. Cup Final against Liverpool we were out-played and out-thought on what proved a bitterly disappointing afternoon. I played badly, as did most of the Newcastle team.

Two years later we came back to Wembley, vowing to make amends to the thousands of fantastic Geordies who backed us so loyally. We played Manchester City in an entertaining League Cup Final, but once again we failed, 2-1.

Spectacular

An early Peter Barnes' goal knocked our wind out, and just when it seemed we were getting on top and equalised through Alan Gowling, Dennis Tueart regained the lead for City with a spectacular overhead kick.

I cannot see Ipswich doing the same to this Arsenal team. We have a large percentage of young players. But they are already hardened by the experience of losing a two-legged League Cup Semi-Final to Liverpool after looking the better team in both games.

Pat Jennings played three times at Wembley for Spurs and finished a winner on every occasion.

Pat Rice was a member of Arsenal's League and Cup "Double" team in 1971. Our skipper will hardly be overawed this time out.

Alan Hudson is no newcomer to Wembley. He played there for Chelsea in the 1972 League Cup Final. And "Huddy" loves the big occasion. The bigger the game the better he plays.

If Alan Sunderland plays he can call on his experiences as a 1974 League Cup winner with Wolves.



And as far as I am concerned I have played at Wembley for Newcastle and England more times than most footballers have any right to remember.

Do not misunderstand me. We will be nervous. We will be tense. We will feel gut twinges. And we will sweat inwardly as we wait in that big, silent dressing-room and later in the cold tunnel as we wait for the order to begin our walk out into the sun.

That's when the biggest roar you can imagine sends your nerve-ends screaming around in goose pimples.

But as far as I am concerned this is my last chance. If I do not collect a winner's medal on May 6th I do not deserve one. Some players never get to Wembley. Those that do savour the memory as long as they live. For a mere handful comes the opportunity to make more than one Cup appearance there. This is my third. Need I say more?

'I'm now playing my best-ever football'

IPSWICH'S PAUL MARINER

REGULAR First Division football, a place in the England squad and now a Cup Final appearance at Wembley.

Five years ago that hat-trick of ambitions never really looked like coming true for Paul Mariner, then of Chorley and on trial with Plymouth Argyle.

"They were more like dreams than ambitions," says Paul, "because for a while it didn't look as if Argyle, then in the Third Division, were going to sign me."

Eventually, however, at the end of his trial period Mariner signed on the dotted line, threw away his engineering overalls and set out on the road to fame.

He became a professional on his 20th birthday and now has the football world at his feet. And he says proudly: "I've done it by a combination of hard work and people having faith in my ability."

People like Ipswich boss Bobby Robson, the man who paid £220,000 to get Mariner from Plymouth in October, 1976. Now it would need almost double that fee to take the exciting striker from Portman Road.

He's the Ipswich answer to Supremacy in the Wembley battle of goals and is keen to make up for not scoring in the Semi-Final by getting the winner in the Final.

Now Mariner has well and truly arrived and is full of enthusiasm as he looks forward to the big day. "We may be the underdogs but we don't mind," he says. "We've enough confidence in our own ability to know that we can do it."

'Easy'

"We're fed up with people saying we've had easy draws in the Cup. We've met Second Division sides Cardiff City, Bristol Rovers and Millwall, but if Second Division sides are supposed to be so easy how come Orient reached the Semis after knocking out three First Division teams?"

"West Brom were big favourites to beat us because they had knocked out Manchester United, Derby County and Nottingham Forest. But on the day we were too good for them and it could be the same with Arsenal in the Final."

"They're entitled to feel confident because they have been playing well. But in the last few weeks we've also been finding our form with several good results."

Paul admits he was unhappy



about his form earlier in the season but says it is all behind him now. "It happens to every striker," he says, "when the goals dry up and the breaks aren't going your way."

"Now it's different. I've regained my appetite for the game, I'm enjoying myself every time I go out to play a match and I'm playing with more confidence. The result is I'm now turning on my best football since moving to Ipswich and it's happened at just the right time."

Paul admits he will get a great personal kick out of playing in the Cup Final. He says: "All these years of watching the game on television I've looked at the players and it has been so obvious how much they have enjoyed the occasion."

"I'll be the very same. From the moment I get out of bed on Cup Final day it will be a very special day. My wife and family will be there and it will be an occasion I will never forget."

Paul may also be able to look back at the action thanks to the video cassette recorder he bought recently. "Just think," he smiles, "that I could get a goal at Wembley and be able to watch it time and time again."

"What a great souvenir that would be..."

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**F.A. CUP FINAL REFEREE
DEREK NIPPARD —**

'A COMPLETE SURPRISE'

WHAT ARE you doing on May 6th? That was the question Derek Nippard was asked on the telephone by Reg Payne, the Referees' Appointment Secretary of The Football Association.

"I'm going to the F.A. Cup Final with my wife to watch the game," replied Derek.

When Payne then asked if Derek would like to participate in the Final, Derek was thrilled to think he had been appointed as a linesman. When told he was the referee, he could only reply: "You're joking!"

"It came as a complete surprise," said Derek, "I had hoped I might be lucky and get the second Wembley prize, the F.A. Trophy."

"But the F.A. Cup Final is every referee's dream. It is a terrific way to end my career in the middle."

"Now I will have to find out where the dressing-rooms are."

Before his appointment, Derek's top games had been the second-leg of this season's Anglo-Scottish Cup Final, an F.A. Youth Cup Final and a linesman at the Northern Ireland v Wales British Championship match in Belfast in June, 1977.

"Then I was on the line to Jack Taylor who retired last season. Jack was the finest referee I have seen in action," added Derek.

It is a hard slog to reach the top as a referee and players up and down the country respect the tall, balding Nippard.

His career as a referee started 29 years ago in 1949 in junior soccer, then the Hampshire League followed by ten seasons on the Football Combination as a linesman and referee, the last four years he was also a linesman on the Football League list.

Third Final

For the last 11 seasons, Derek has been in the middle as a Football League referee. But a ref on the list does not have a League game every week. The F.A. Cup Final at Wembley will be Derek's third Final in a month!

He explained: "Of course, Wembley will be THE FINAL. But to show how varied our appointments are — on Saturday, April 15th, I was ref at the Bournemouth Senior Cup Final between Ringwood and Sway on AFC Bournemouth's ground."

"The following Saturday I was in the Channel Islands officiating at their Champions' Cup Final."

"My last Football League game as a referee was between Reading and York City at Elm Park on April 26th."

One point Derek would like to correct is the fact he has been referred to in the Press as a Dorset referee.

"Not correct," Derek said, "I am



a Hampshire Football Association referee and would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hampshire F.A. and also the Bournemouth Referees' Society for all the help they have given me over the years."

Of the many, many games Derek has been in charge of, he did not have to search his memory for the finest match in which he was referee.

"No doubt about it at all, but the two Third Round F.A. Cup games this January between Tottenham and Bolton were the greatest. With the replay at Bolton, in which I had to give a penalty in the last minute, even better than the first encounter at White Hart Lane!"

Derek is a district service officer with the Southern Gas Board — a fact that has not been lost on headline writers!

Let us hope his vast experience as a referee is not lost to the game and we will see him at our League grounds as a Football League Assessor. No one is better qualified.

Derek Nippard's fine career as a referee comes to an end this season. Not many people take notice of a referee after the F.A. Cup Final. The walk up the Wembley steps by the winning team, the lap of honour with the silver trophy will be the centre of attraction.

But a man in black will walk tall as he leaves the Wembley turf to collect his wife Margaret from the noisy stands and drive back to quiet Christchurch.

THEY DIDN'T GET TO WEMBLEY, BUT

Didn't they do well!!



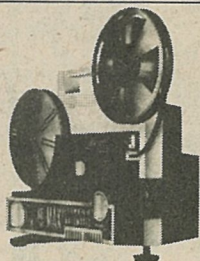
TOP OF PAGE . . . Non-League Blyth Spartans were undoubtedly the Cup heroes this season. They battled through to the Fifth Round and were knocked out by Wrexham. Terry Johnson (stripes) gave them the lead in the first game but the Third Division side equalised in the dying seconds and won 2-1 in a replay.

ABOVE . . . Leicester City's dismal season was capped when Dave Mackay's Walsall dumped them out of the Cup 1-0 in the Fourth Round. Here, Alun Evans scores the match winner.

LEFT . . . Liverpool went to London in the Third Round confident of progressing through at the expense of Chelsea. But the Stamford Bridge club had other ideas and were worthy 4-2 winners. Jock Finnieston scores their second.

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* 1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0	100ft
* 1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1	200ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2	100ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1	100ft
1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0	100ft
1968 WBA 1, Everton 0	200ft
1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1	200ft
1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed. 2	300ft
1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1	200ft
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* 1974 Yugoslavia 9, Zaire 0	200ft
* 1974 Sweden 2, Yugoslavia 1	200ft
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* 1970 Brazil 4, Italy 1	200ft
* 1970 Italy 4, W. Germany 3	200ft
* 1970 England 2, W. Germany 3	200ft
* 1966 England 4, W. Germany 2	200ft & 400ft
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1966 England 2, Portugal 1	200ft
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1970 Feyenoord 2, Celtic 1	200ft
1969 Milan 4, Ajax 1	200ft
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1968 Man. Utd. 3, Madrid 3 (semi-final)	200ft
1967 Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1	200ft/400ft
1966 Man. Utd. 5, Benfica 1	200ft
1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1	200ft
1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3	200ft/400ft

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* 1977 Aston V. 3, Everton 2	200ft
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* 1975 Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0	100ft
* 1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1	100ft
1973 Spurs 1, Norwich 0	100ft
1972 Stoke 2, Chelsea 1	200ft
1971 Spurs 2, Aston Villa 0	50ft
1967 Q.P.R. 3, W.B.A. 2	200ft

EURO NATIONS CUP

* 1976 Czech 7, W. Germany 5	400ft
Also b/w & col. SOUND 400ft	

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

1968 Newcastle 3, Man. City 4	200ft
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also 400ft b/w sound	
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1976 UEFA CUP Liverpool v. Bruges	1972 FA CUP FINAL Leeds v. Arsenal
1976 FA CUP FINAL Super Saints!	1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Salute to Stoke!
1976 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Man. City v. Newcastle	1971 FA CUP FINAL Arsenal v. Liverpool
1976 KINGS OF SCOTLAND Rangers v. Hearts	1971 EURO CUP WINNERS Chelsea v. R. Madrid
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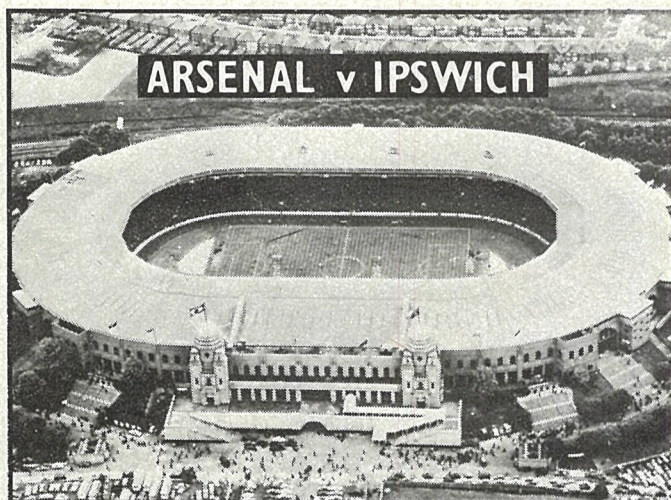
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THEIR ROADS TO WEMBLEY



THIRD ROUND	FOURTH ROUND	FIFTH ROUND	SIXTH ROUND	SEMI-FINALS	
ARSENAL	5 } *ARSENAL	2 }			
*SHEFF. UTD.	0 }	1 }			
*EXETER C.	2 1 }	*ARSENAL	4 }		
WOLVES	2 3 }	1 }			
*WALSALL	4 }	1 }	ARSENAL	3 }	
SWANSEA C	1 }	0 }	1 }		
*HULL C	0 }	0 }			
LEICESTER C	1 }				
*PETERBOROUGH U	1 0 }	*NEWCASTLE U	2 1 }	†ARSENAL	3 }
NEWCASTLE U	1 2 }	2 1 }			
*BRISTOL C	4 0 }	*WREXHAM	1 2 }		
WREXHAM	4 3 }	2 4 }			
*STOKE C	4 }	2 }	*WREXHAM	2 }	
TILBURY	0 }				
*BLYTH S	1 }	BLYTH S	1 1 }		
ENFIELD	0 }	3 }			
*MIDDLESBROUGH	3 }	*MIDDLESBROUGH	2 }		
COVENTRY C	0 }	3 }			
*EVERTON	4 }	2 }			
ASTON VILLA	1 }				
*TOTTENHAM	2 1 }	*BOLTON W	1 }	*MIDDLESBROUGH	0 1 }
BOLTON W	2 2 }	1 }			
*MANSFIELD T	1 }	BOLTON W	0 }		
PLYMOUTH A	0 }	0 }			
*ORIENT	1 1 }	3 }		ORIENT	0 }
NORWICH C	1 0 }	1 }			
*BLACKBURN R	2 }	*ORIENT	0 2 }		
SHREWSBURY T	1 }	1 }			
*CHELSEA	4 }	6 }	ORIENT	0 2 }	
LIVERPOOL	2 }	2 }			
*BURNLEY	1 }	CHELSEA	0 1 }		
FULHAM	0 }	2 }			
*DERBY CO	3 }	2 }			
SOUTHEND U	2 }				
*BIRMINGHAM C	4 }	*DERBY CO	2 }		
WIGAN	0 }	1 }			
*CARLISLE U	1 2 }	*W.B.A.	3 }		
MAN UTD	1 4 }	1 2 }			
*W.B.A.	4 }	1 3 }			
BLACKPOOL	1 }				
*WEST HAM	1 }	*Q.P.R.	1 1 1 }		
WATFORD	0 }	1 6 }			
*Q.P.R.	4 }	2 }			
WEALDSTONE	0 }	NOTTM FOREST	1 1 3 }		
*NOTTM FOREST	4 }	1 }			
SWINDON T	1 }				
*LEEDS UTD	1 }				
MAN CITY	2 }				
*ROTHERHAM	1 0 }				
MILLWALL	1 2 }				
*LUTON T	1 2 }				
OLDHAM A	1 1 }				
*BRIGHTON	3 }				
SCARBOROUGH T	0 }				
*CHARLTON ATH	0 }				
NOTTS CO	2 }				
*SUNDERLAND	0 }				
BRISTOL ROV	1 }				
*GRIMSBY T	0 0 1 }				
SOUTHAMPTON	0 0 4 }				
*HARTLEPOOL	2 }				
C PALACE	1 }				
*CARDIFF C	0 }				
IPSWICH T	2 }				

Grimsby Town v Southampton Third Round second replay at Leicester.
Wrexham v Blyth S Fifth Round replay at Newcastle.
Q.P.R. v Nottm. Forest Fifth Round second replay at Nottm. Forest.

* Denotes home club in first game.
†Arsenal v Orient Semi-Final played at Stamford Bridge.
‡W.B.A. v Ipswich T Semi-Final played at Highbury.



**Semi-Final
stunners**

EASY for RIX...

ARSENAL didn't really have to move into top gear to overcome brave Orient at Stamford Bridge. Two goals by Malcolm Macdonald and one by young Graham Rix ensured The Gunners of yet another Wembley date. Above, we see Rix (right) with Liam Brady and Frank Stapleton as they celebrate the goal that put the Semi-Final beyond doubt. Arsenal are favourites to beat Ipswich and it's easy to see why. They are a side without a notable weakness and the picture on the left shows The Gunners defence in command, with Irish star David O'Leary dominant. The biggest problem for manager Terry Neill could be his Final line-up. If Alan Sunderland proves his fitness... who drops out — if anyone?





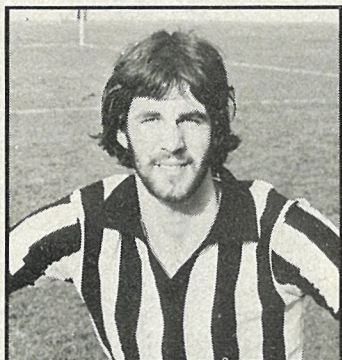
TOUGH for TALBOT...

THE Ipswich Town/West Brom Semi was one of the finest Cup-ties seen in years. It had everything . . . goals, courage, controversy and thrills. The game came to light when Ipswich midfielder-man Brian Talbot dived bravely to put his team in front (above), but in doing so clashed heads with Albion skipper John Wile. It was a pure accident and while Talbot was forced to come off, brave Wile gave a fighting display of courage and

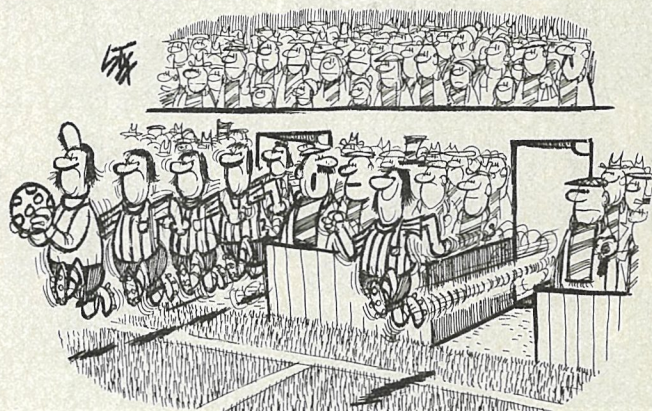
professionalism as he inspired his team-mates. The West Brom attack never really got the better of the Ipswich defence (below) in which Kevin Beattie was outstanding. Many neutrals will be rooting for the homely East Anglia club at Wembley as their football in recent seasons has been positive and exciting. Perhaps now their efforts will be rewarded in their first Wembley appearance.



FOOTBALL FUNNIES



*This week St. Mirren's
Scotland Under-21 star
BOBBY REID selects the
jokes specially drawn by
our cartoonist Styx.*



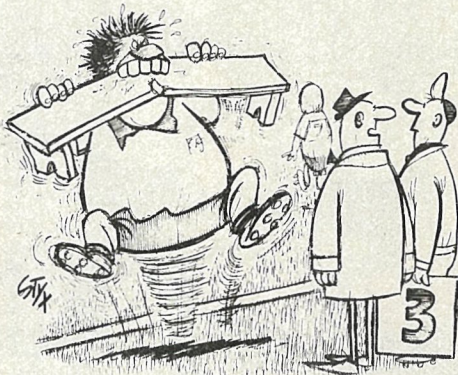
"That's our new £500,000 striker"



*"You have to face it, son —
nature never meant your feet
to play football!"*



*"I told him I had a great plan
to improve the team and he
asked me when I was leaving"*



*"I wish he wouldn't get so upset
at being called off"*



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This week's Star Letter comes
from M. Graver of Fincham, near
King's Lynn in Norfolk, who wins
our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

HILL SALE WRONG

LIKE many other Manchester
United fans, feel annoyed by
Dave Sexton's decision to sell Gordon
Hill to Derby County. How can
he disregard Hill's wealth of skill
and talent?

Gordon is an entertainer, a
player the crowd loves to watch.

I've heard so much about Sexton's
reputation for encouraging
attacking, continental-style football
at C.P.R. Since taking over at Old
Trafford he has restyled a successful
and entertaining side with two
wingers into a mediocre, orthodox
4-3-3 outfit with no wingers (Steve
Coppell usually plays in midfield
now).

How can Hill be described as a
player who plays well only when
he feels like it? This season, for
United, he had scored 17 League
goals.

It is beyond comprehension that
a club can sell its leading goal-
scorer voluntarily.

● This letter seems to sum up the
feelings of most United fans who
wrote in. The time to really judge
Sexton will be next season, to see
how "his" side fares. Having said
that, some of his transfer moves
appear puzzling. United will need
to find someone who can score
Hill's goals — but who?

Cosmos

SHOOT keeps calling the Ameri-
can team the Cosmos, but most
newspapers refer to them as the
New York Cosmos. I would dearly
love to know what their proper
name is as I find it very confusing.

JONATHAN FRANKS,
OLDBURY.

● The club dropped the "New
York" from their title when they
moved their home from the city of
New York to East Rutherford, New
Jersey. The correct name of the
club is simply the Cosmos.

Lay off bosses

FIND it odd that so many fans
can so easily criticise a mana-
ger's resignation.

A boss should be able to do what
he wants without hostile response
from the public.

Why should a manager plan his
life to suit the public? He should
have full backing for decisions
taken for himself and his family:

If a manager breaks his contract
it is his business, not the public's.
NICHOLAS GRETTON, CLITHEROE.

● I disagree. The fans who have
been helping to pay the manager's
wages are entitled to an explana-
tion, even if the reasons are usu-
ally obvious ... a better job.

Pen-pal

I'M A 13-year-old boy from Nor-
way and I'd like to have pen-pals
anywhere in the world. I'm a Liver-
pool fan myself, but it isn't neces-
sary that my pen-pals are, too.

BJORN STENSBY,
ELGEFARET 1a,
1347 HOSLE, NORWAY.



Police need dogs

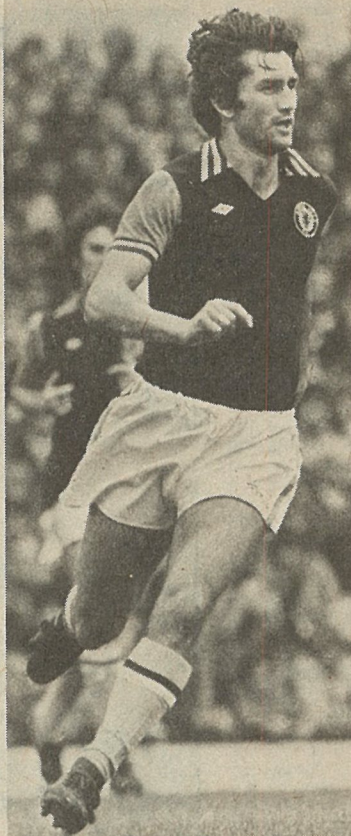
MY SOLUTION to the hooligan
problem would be more use
of police dogs. I've seen these used
at some European matches and
nobody even considered invading
the pitch.

It's unreasonable to expect
unarmed police to control a crowd
of hooligans and the police should
have extra protection.

There comes a time when you
have to fight fire with fire.

MICHAEL DOWLING,
ARDFEST.

● Prevention is always better
than cure and dogs (above, as seen
at Villa Park a few seasons ago) are
a great deterrent. My only doubt is
that if the dogs are let off their
leads ... how do they tell the
difference between a hooligan and
an innocent fan who just happens
to be caught up in the violence?



ments during the present cam-
paign. Mortimer says: "Our squad
has partly been to blame. And it
has been small because we have
had so many injuries on and off
throughout the season. Andy Gray
has missed matches, Alex Cropley
broke a leg, most of the other lads
have had spells out through injury.

"At one stage, there were only
about 12 players the boss could
choose from. And that sort of situ-
ation is far from ideal. Players
know their place is safe and
whether they mean it or not, their
form seems to take a slide, possi-
bly because they relax mentally. If
you know there are five others
fighting to get in, you're more
likely to be in the right frame of
mind. It's understandable."

Mortimer believes manager Ron
Saunders may have made things
too easy for his side through
January and February. "I don't
think we were getting the criti-
cisms we deserved," he said. "But
we have been getting some kicks
up the backside — in a verbal
sense — since then and it was
probably needed."

"We have not worked as hard
this season as we did last year. We
haven't been as determined as we
would have liked. Last term, when
everything was on song and
everyone battling for each other,
we were going well. But this time
we don't seem to have done it as
much."

WHY DID VILLA SLUMP?

'Small squad partly to blame'
says DENNIS MORTIMER

WHAT'S gone wrong at Aston
Villa this season? It's a ques-
tion on everyone's lips up and
down the length of the country.
Villa, the brave, young, confident
side that swept through to some
memorable games and victories
last season, have been a pale
shadow of themselves this season.

Results have been disappointing
in the League: the Cups brought
little joy and only an astonishing
late rally saved their blushes in the
U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter-final first-leg
against Barcelona. It all seemed to
have gone wrong in every way.

Midfield man Dennis Mortimer,
however, highlights some reasons
for the Villa slump. And Mortimer
warns: "Don't write us off yet. OK,
it's been a disappointing season
for us but there have been lots of
reasons. And I see no reason
whatsoever why we can't come
back next season and fulfil that
tremendous promise we showed
last term. We know we've got
plenty of hard work to do for 1978-
79 — but we think we can do it."

Maybe. But there is still a lot to
explain away Villa's disappoint-

"Teams like Nottingham Forest
have showed just how well you
can do if you all battle and work
for each other. We accept we have got
to get back to that state of affairs
— and get back to it quickly."

Mortimer knows Villa's biggest
fault has been they haven't all
been working hard enough. But he
says: "We've learned our lesson
from this season. I would expect
us to be back to our best next
term, assuming we get more luck
with injuries. We've certainly had
our fair share of them this season
throughout the side."

"These days, we are talking
more about our mistakes and our
defeats. We analyse our bad points
and problems and it has definitely
helped us iron out some of them."

"It's been a disappointing sea-
son for us, we cannot deny. We
thought we might really make a
mark in a domestic competition,
but it just hasn't happened. It's
been a disappointment but we
know we can do it — it's just a
matter of solid application and
that's the quality we'll be looking
for from now on."

THERE will be more Irishmen this year than in any previous Wembley F.A. Cup Final.

Arsenal have Jennings, Rice, Nelson, Brady and Stapleton, plus O'Leary who is an Eire international though London-born, and Hunter will be among the Ipswich opposition.

The most in one team previously was four, oddly enough with Cardiff City in 1927. Manchester United (1963) and Luton Town (1959) had three.

In Ptolemy's page in the April issue of Geographical magazine, he reveals one of the many interesting facts about the origins of players in the Football League. "Lancashire and Yorkshire alone produce over 30 per cent. of top-class professional footballers." This was taken from a fascinating broadsheet entitled "The Geography of Footballers" compiled by the geography department at Avery Hill College, London SE9 2PQ.

LEAMINGTON striker Roger Brown, who created quite an impression in his club's F.A. Cup run this season, has taken a cut in pay for the chance of becoming a full-time professional.

Brown, who's 24, has joined Bournemouth for a fee of £5,000, knowing it will leave him out of pocket after quitting his job as a production engineer, and losing his wage from Leamington on top of that.

In all Roger reckons he's going to be about £20 a week worse off, but the lure of the professional game was too strong for him to resist.

BORO BLOW

THE Sixth Round F.A. Cup defeat by Second Division Orient was a big blow to Middlesbrough. The North-East team were really optimistic of reaching Wembley.

Boro will not be rated a "fashionable" club until they land a major prize. In their 102-year history they have not got beyond the Sixth Round barrier of the F.A. Cup.

In the last four years they have failed three times. Two years ago they were 90 minutes away from the Football League Cup Final . . . but Manchester City shattered their dreams.

● Boro have been linked with Partick Thistle's Scottish international goalkeeper Alan Rough, but don't be too surprised if they switch their attention to St. Mirren's Alan McCulloch, who is on loan to the Love Street club from Kilmarnock at the moment.



MANCHESTER United director Sir Matt Busby, the man who built the fabulous Busby Babes of the early Fifties, is a firm believer in youth.

Here he poses for SHOOT with four year-old Damian Mellor, already a keen United fan . . . and maybe an Old Trafford star of the future.

BLACKPOOL may be handing over some of the money they got for Paul Hart to League of Ireland club Limerick. The Irish club are confidently expecting an end-of-season bonanza should two of their brightest young talents sign for the Division Two club at the end of their month's trial.

The trialists are right-back Pat Nolan and midfielder Johnny Walsh. Nolan recently won an Under-21 international cap against Northern Ireland.

A WASTED YEAR FOR CUP FINAL STAR



FROM F.A. Cup Final glory to comparative obscurity in less than two years — that's the fate of Crystal Palace and former Southampton star Mel Blyth (left). And as Arsenal and Ipswich take the field on Saturday, Blyth's thoughts will undoubtedly go back to Wembley, 1976.

That day, Southampton won the trophy by over-turning the form book with a 1-0 win against Manchester United. And Blyth drank champagne from the Cup that night.

Now, Blyth sits idly by: playing occasionally for Crystal Palace reserves and hoping for a call from an American club. He says: "I'm sick I've wasted a year of my career."

"I wanted to leave Southampton because I was so keen to return to London. I don't regret that even now, but I'm sad I had to lay my career on the line to do so."

"I can't deny I didn't really settle in Southampton. And even when we won the Cup, I never felt part of the scene down there."

"But since I came back, nothing has happened. I know I could still play well enough in a League side. I feel as though I've still got a lot of football left in me. It's just a matter of finding someone who might take the chance I'd do it for them."

Blyth reckons the "new-look" Saints' side is better than the 1976 team — "But I think manager Lawrie McMenemy has lost flair in changing it."

He adds: "I know the attitude of that Cup-winning side wasn't always right, but if we had gone up — as we should have done — I reckon it would have been one heck of a side in the First Division."

FITNESS FIGHT

BRISTOL City centre-half Gary Collier is fighting to get fit for the club's tour of America at the end of the month.

He suffered a knee injury against Norwich City on February 4th, but thought he would be set for a fairly quick return.

His hopes were dashed when

Ashton Gate physiotherapist Les Bardsley confirmed a preliminary diagnosis that Gary had a damaged capsule in the knee.

Although an operation should not be necessary, Gary is in half-plaster, and is just waiting for the injury to heal itself.

THE morning after Arsenal's F.A. Cup Semi-Final victory over Orient, Alan Hudson visited injured club-mate Richie Powling in hospital and took along a bottle of champagne.

Said Richie, recovering from a knee operation: "I was really feeling out of it until Alan showed up. It was a fine gesture."

NEWS DESK

COMPILED BY PETER STEWART

CLOUGHIE'S SHAKER

JOHN Robertson (right), the 25-year-old Nottingham Forest winger called up for the Scottish squad, has a lot to thank club manager Brian Clough for.

It took the Uddingston-born winger a long time to make his mark at the City Ground even though he made his League debut just over five months after signing professional for them in May, 1970.

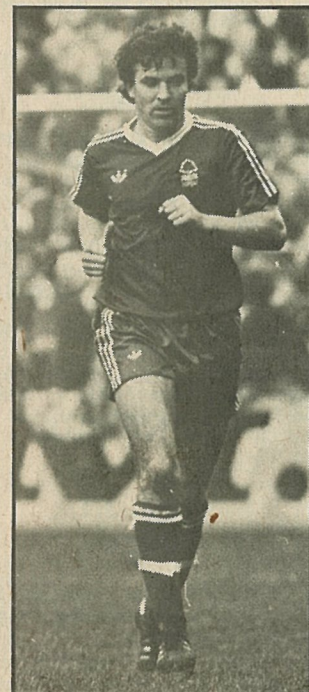
That, in fact, was his only League appearance that season. It's only in the last two and a half seasons he has really started to make a name for

himself.

For a long period he was overshadowed by the performances of fellow winger Terry Curran, who moved on to Derby last November.

Clough then stepped in to shake Robertson up because he was overweight. He was fined a couple of times and then responded well to the Clough treatment.

Now he is one of the most feared wingers in the country and appears certain to serve his native Scotland for a long time.



SOCCER CLINIC

TOTTENHAM physiotherapist Mike Varney and Orient's Bill Songhurst recently teamed-up and opened a sports clinic, aimed primarily at the treatment of injured footballers.

They will provide expert service in an area containing many junior and semi-professional clubs who do not have a fully trained physio.

The clinic is at 101 Chaseside, Enfield, Middlesex, — tel: 01-367 0321 — and treatment is usually by appointment.

Mike, one of soccer's most respected "menders of men", recently published a book on the subject of the Treatment of Football Injuries.

DUNDEE United have given a shock free transfer to long-serving full-back Andy Rolland, a former skipper of the club. He cost them £10,000 when he joined them from Cowdenbeath 11 years ago.

SEVERAL members of Manchester United's 1968 European Cup winning team turned out in a Johnny Giles XI at Oriol Park, Dundalk, recently in a special match to raise funds for the family of the club's full-back Brian McConville who died suddenly earlier in the season.

EVERTON manager Gordon Lee is searching for three new players to boost his first team squad... a right-back, midfielder and striker. The men he wants? Our guess: Aston Villa defender John Gidman, Blackpool striker Mickey Walsh and Newcastle midfielder Geoff Nulty.

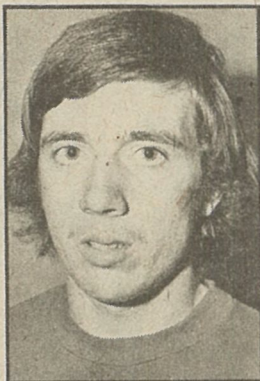
THIRD TIME LUCKY FOR PAUL

NO ONE was more delighted than Ipswich Town's goalkeeper, Paul Cooper (right), when his side beat West Bromwich Albion 3-1 in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final at Highbury.

It was a case of third time lucky for Cooper. He played for Birmingham City when they reached the 1972 Semi-Final only to be beaten by Leeds United.

In 1975 he saw all of the Cup games in which Ipswich were involved as stand-by to goalkeeper Laurie Sivell before his club were knocked out by West Ham United in a replay.

Despite his early promise at Birmingham they allowed him to move in a £30,000 deal after he had played for Bobby Robson's team on loan.



WHEN Sheffield Wednesday were knocked out of the F.A. Cup last December by Wigan the blow was softened by the quality of the debut at left-back by 17-year old David Grant. "We lost a game but found a player," were manager Jack Charlton's first words after the game.

Since then Grant has played an important part in the club's rally to avoid relegation and earned this further praise from big Jack: "He's the most mature teenager I have ever seen."

Grant's first promise was spotted at the age of ten when he played for Sheffield Schoolboys. He then went on to play at every representative level for Sheffield and South Yorkshire Boys. At 15, with another young Wednesday player, Brian Strutt, he reached the Semi-Final of the English Schools Trophy.

Under Jack Charlton's firm guidance this natural left-back can go far in the game.

"At first," said Charlton, "he had a few problems in heading but, on the ball he has always been great... he doesn't waste them."

"Mind you, we had to get on to him in the beginning and tell him that if he was to get better he must expand his game... that he should go forward more often and give support. We'll keep on to him knowing that he has enough ability, lots of skill and tremendous accuracy."

KEITH Flight, an apprentice with Arsenal, will sign full pro forms with the club on his 18th birthday in July. An avid SHOOT reader, Keith is a left-back and destined for a fine future. We wish him well.



CUP WINNING SHOOT

WHILE most of the attention in recent weeks has been focused on the World Cup, Euro Cups and the domestic Cups, another competition of growing importance was completely ignored by the national Press.

It was... the I.P.C. Six-a-side Cup, which comprises various publications and departments within the company.

The SHOOT side didn't have too happy a League campaign. Despite being top scorers, they could only finish mid-way up — or down — the table.

However, they showed them-

selves to be Cup fighters and in a thrilling Final triumphed 3-2 after extra-time. Indeed, with just two minutes to go SHOOT trailed 2-1, but two superb goals by ace striker John Hamon ensured the Cup would be going to the "experts".

Here's the SHOOT squad. Back row: Stewart Worker, Chris Davies, Ian Reeve, Dave Hutchins. Front row: Andy Cowie, John Hamon and Colin Smith.

Let's hope the English and Scottish Finals this week are just as exciting!

MILLWALL midfielder Bryan Hamilton has endured more than his share of Cup "Blues", and with clubs wearing those colours!

Apart from being on The Lions' team swamped 6-1 by Ipswich in the F.A. Cup Quarter-Finals recently, 31-year-old Hamilton also appeared in losing Semi-Finals, for Ipswich v. West Ham, in 1975, and in Everton's duel with Liverpool, last term, not to mention being a loser yet again when the Goodison Blues fell to Aston Villa in the twice-replayed 1977 League Cup Final.

And, back in 1968, much-travelled Bryan was on Linfield's losing Irish Cup Final outfit v. Crusaders, but, two years later, he did pick up a winners' medal, in the 2-1 Final win over Ballymena United.

EAST Stirling manager Billy Lamont didn't have far to look when he decided to strengthen his midfield. He signed his 18-year-old son, Paul, who had just been released by Everton.

In his first game for the "Shire", Paul justified his dad's faith in him. Not only did he make a winning debut against promotion-chasing Dunfermline Athletic, he also had a hand in the only goal of the game.

The S.F.A. received over 300,000 applications for tickets for the Scotland/England match at Hampden on May 20th. 291,600 are going to be disappointed, though, because only around 8,400 tickets will be made available to the public.

This year's Pontin six-a-side qualifying competition will be held at Bream Sands and Prestatyn Sands from May 7th to May 11th.

PLAYERS WANTED IN AUSTRALIA

TOP CLASS single, free transfer League players wanted by leading Australian national League club. Must be available now. Anyone interested in a career Down Under should send all personal and playing details by airmail to Jim Cook, 12/204 The Avenue, Parkville 3052, Victoria, Australia. And please write to Jim direct, not to SHOOT.

IF HEARTS had failed to win promotion back to the Premier Division this season they could have blamed Montrose. The wee Angus club have taken four Championship points off the Edinburgh side with one win and two draws in their three meetings.

Montrose are no strangers when it comes to shocking Hearts. Two years ago in the Scottish Cup they were leading 2-1 at Links Park with a minute to go when Hearts equalised. In the first replay at Tynecastle Montrose went two goals ahead but eventually had to settle for a draw. Hearts won the second replay 2-1 at Perth.

SOCCER IN THE STATES

The start of a Summer series featuring news from North America

JIM STEELE, voted Man-of-the-Match when Southampton beat Manchester United in the 1976 F.A. Cup Final has earned a new title in America.

Jim plays for the Washington Diplomats and in a politically orientated city he's known as "The Secretary of Defence".

No player who's ever faced tough-tackling Steele would ever describe him as a diplomat, but the tag given to him by American fans is by way of a warm tribute for his determined, enthusiastic play.

Jim's rugged style has won him a few yellow cards in the N.A.S.L., but the fans love him.

Washington's new coach Gordon Bradley made Steele captain this year and hopes the extra responsibility will help cool his temper.

Says Bradley: "He's a good player, but can be a bit temperamental at times. I hope being skipper will calm Jim down."

Steele, 28, reckons he'll play another five years in the States before looking for a coaching job or setting up his own business.

BRITISH expatriates in Los Angeles are now treated to an hour of English League soccer on television every week and it's normally an ITV recording from the previous week.

It's worth watching if only for the expressions of the American commentator.

When Liverpool were shown at Aston Villa recently, he referred to Villa Park as... "the home of the Aston Villa Villains", instead of Villans. He also kept talking about "players being trundled off the ball", explaining it was an English soccer expression he'd been taught.

I wonder who his tutor was? Certainly not Brian Moore.

WHILE on the subject of Press coverage... the Press boxes are normally so far away from the action in the States most journalists take along binoculars.

QUICK debut for Charlton and England "B" striker Mike Flanagan. After playing against Hull City at The Valley on Saturday April 8th Mike, wife Louise and baby son Adam caught the early Sunday morning flight to Boston from Heathrow. Within a few hours of landing he was playing for his club New England Tea Men against Tampa Bay Rowdies, who won 2-1.

A week later "Flash" hit the winner v. Philadelphia Fury.

MY HEART wants Ipswich Town to lift the F.A. Cup on Saturday (May 6th) . . . but my head tells me Arsenal are the more likely Wembley winners.

No disrespect to The Gunners, but I would love to see the men from East Anglia put out their fire and land the most glamorous trophy in our football for the first time in their history.

Why do I want Ipswich to upset the odds? Because I have a lot of good mates at Portman Road. I also believe the players, their fans, directors and manager Bobby Robson deserve an honour to show for all the hard work and dedication they have given to the club over the past few years.

Since 1972-73, Town have never been out of the top six in the First Division. Last term they ended third, behind Manchester City and Champions Liverpool.

Before this term kicked off many experts predicted Ipswich would again be in the running for the title. Instead they have struggled, and for a while were even in danger of relegation.

Injuries to key players such as Kevin Beattie, Trevor Whymark and Paul Mariner, have been the main reason the club has failed to live up to expectations.

Manager Robson has achieved wonders for a club in an area regarded as one of soccer's outposts.

Not for Portman Road the 50,000 gates of Anfield, Old Trafford, Goodison and Maine Road. How they have managed to build such fine teams on limited resources is one of the great feats of British football.

After five years of being so near to success, yet so far, this present team could well be ready for some changes. So, Saturday's Cup Final may well be the last chance a few of the old faces will get of grabbing some glory.

Providing Paul Mariner manages to get tickets for me and Jackie, I'll be there on Saturday cheering on the lads in blue.

Apart from P.M., my special mates in the Ipswich camp are Kevin Beattie, Mick Mills and Brian Talbot.

I struck up a firm friendship with them when we first met on England duty. As you know, I roomed with Mick and shared many a laugh with him and the others.

'WHY I WANT IPSWICH TO WIN THE CUP'

I also get on well with Trevor Whymark and Clive Woods, who were both in the England party that travelled to Luxembourg last October.

Three things could help to win the match for Ipswich . . . the fact they have been given little chance by the experts . . . past disappointments . . . and Paul Mariner.

The underdogs have a habit of causing a sensation at Wembley — as Sunderland proved against Leeds in 1973, Southampton v. Man. United in 1976, and United v. Liverpool last year.

I believe defeat for Ipswich in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final against West Ham in 1975 shattered their confidence so much they almost lost faith in themselves.

Now they have earned another chance to prove the club is worthy to be called one of Britain's best, and gain a just reward for all the good football they've served up over the past few seasons.

Paul hasn't had the best of campaigns but he could be the team's secret weapon. On his day, P.M. is one of the most devastating forwards in the land . . . a real match-winner.

Town's strengths are their team spirit, good all-round attacking abil-

my soccer scene
GORDON HILL

Right: Gordon and Pancho Pearson . . . Wembley winners in 1977.

Below: SEMI-FINAL JOY . . . as Ipswich Town celebrate their 3-1 victory over West Brom.

ity and Allan Hunter. He's a real Rock of Gibraltar in the heart of their defence.

Weaknesses? If they go a goal down early on they have a habit of folding up.

On current form, though, it must be Arsenal's Cup. They've had a tremendous season and for a while looked serious Championship material.

The Gunners have no real weaknesses as far as I can see. They are a superb, well-organised side, with



Fogged Off

When England's European Championship tie in Czechoslovakia in October, 1975 was abandoned through fog before half-time, was this the only such case in England's international history?

DAVID LIDGARD,
HULL

● No, it's not, David. For instance, a friendly England were playing against Argentina in Buenos Aires in May, 1953 was abandoned, after 21 minutes, when a tropical-type storm flooded the pitch.

Only difference being that, as this was a friendly, it wasn't played again — whereas 22 years later England, to their cost, were beaten 2-1 the following day by the Czechs.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

ASK THE EXPERT

SHOOT, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

£1 for every letter published.

SHORT PASSES

● Jim Baxter played in 34 full internationals for Scotland between 1960-61 and 1967-68.

(DREW SMITH, Wishaw)

● Gordon Banks gained an English goalkeepers' record of 73 full caps — 37 while with Leicester, and 36 with Stoke.

(JOHN HEATH, Gillingham)

● Malcolm Macdonald has scored six goals in 14 full internationals for England.

(BRENDAN SKELLY, Eire)

● England last qualified for the World Cup, in their own right, in the 1962 competition in Chile.

(JONATHAN ROUSE, Sutton Coldfield)

● Brazil have won the World Cup three times; Uruguay, Italy, and West Germany twice; and England once.

(DAVID OLIVER, Manchester)



the right blend of youth and experience . . . as they proved by beating Manchester United three times this season.

Arsenal did the double in the League and knocked United out of the League Cup in the Second Round at Highbury.

Man. U. had better luck against Ipswich, though, drawing 0-0 at Old T. and winning 2-1 away.

Match-winners for Arsenal? Obviously the goalpower of Malcolm Macdonald, Frank Stapleton and Alan Sunderland (if fit). The midfield craft of Alan Hudson and Liam Brady. The defensive strength of Willie Young (how he's improved), Pat Rice and David O'Leary.

On paper the result is a foregone conclusion. But as I've said, Cup Finals aren't won by computer.

Whatever the result, this year's big match should be very exciting and close-fought with lots of fine football.

I've a feeling 1978 could witness one of the best Cup Finals for a long time.

I'm looking forward to just being there on the day to savour the atmosphere.

Wembley on Cup Final afternoon is great for fans — unbelievable for the players. Like something . . . well, out of this world.

Really I can't describe the atmosphere. You need to be involved to actually feel it properly.

For many players and teams the tension that builds up over the weeks to the Final has proved too much on the day.

Defeat at Wembley leaves you numb . . . unfeeling . . . deaf to the cheers of the crowd. It's very difficult to conceal your utter dejection

as you walk slowly up those steps to receive your losers' medal.

You don't brighten up until next day when the fans greet your arrival back home. Even the losers are winners then.

Winning at Wembley is almost indescribable. I suppose it's like winning £500,000 on the pools and having a baby son or daughter on the same day. Fantastic!

Last year my Wembley celebrations were spoilt when I was substituted for the second time in succession.

That was probably the most humiliating moment of my career. Still, I soon recovered from that blow when Pancho Pearson put the Cup in my hands.

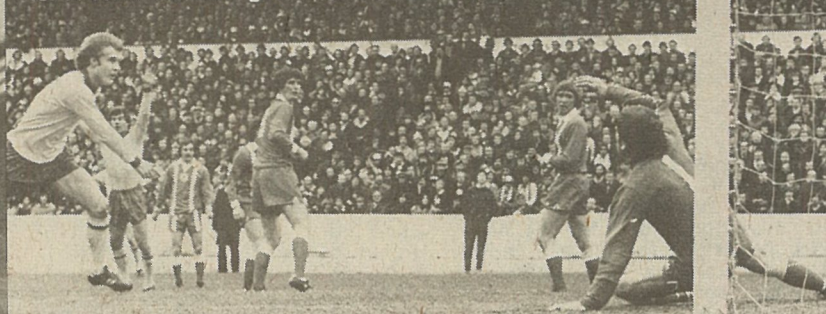
So all eyes are now focussed on Wembley Stadium. I bet most of you readers are as excited as I am, whether you're going to watch the game on TV, or have been lucky enough to get a ticket.

As I've said, I would like my mates at Ipswich to win. If not, then good luck to Arsenal. Lifting the glittering prize could be the start of an exciting new era of triumph for the club.

Join me again next week when I'll be telling you the full story of my transfer from Manchester United to Derby County.

See you then . . .

SEMI-FINAL DESPAIR . . . for Orient as this shot from Malcolm Macdonald (arms raised) is deflected past 'keeper John Jackson for Arsenal's second goal. The Gunners won 3-0.



Ten in national team

Which club of any country has supplied the most players to any one international line-up?

ROBERT WEBB, STROUD

● Torino hold the world record there, Robert — they had ten men in the Italian side which played Hungary on 11th May, 1947.

It's true that Queen's Park provided all 11 Scots against England in the world's first soccer international on 30th November, 1872.

But this isn't regarded as a genuine record, as Scotland made no attempt to

pick a fully representative side, being quite content to select the strong Queen's Park team en bloc.

Result

I'm a Bristol City fanatic, and I've come across an old programme for a game against Watford on 14th November, 1970. Can you please tell me the result and scorers?

LINDA HARRIS, BRISTOL

● City won that Second Division game 3-0. Linda, with goals from Broomfield, Wimshurst, and Sharpe.

They also won 3-0 at Watford later on, but it really wasn't City's season. In fact, at the end of it, they only just escaped going down to the Third Division.

Walsall

As a Walsall fan, I'd like to know if my local club have ever been higher than Division Three?

RICHARD COATES, WALSALL

● They've certainly been in the Second Division — in fact (under their original name of Walsall Town Swifts) they were one of the original members when it was started in 1892.

They failed to get re-elected in 1895, but played there again from 1896 to 1901, when once more they failed re-election.

But that wasn't quite the end of Walsall's Division Two life — they played there again in the 1961-62 and 1962-63 seasons.

Birthday

I'm a very keen girl footballer, and would love to know if I share my birthday of 21st October with any famous player?

ALISON COGGON, GLOUCESTER

● You couldn't do better, Alison — no less than Edson Arantes do Nascimento. Or, as he was always known, the one-and-only Pele.

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

NEARLY nine years ago, that Burnley bulwark, Peter Noble, was one of the Swindon Town giantkillers who left their humble Third Division ground in Wiltshire to destroy Arsenal in the League Cup Final, at Wembley.

That memorable victory marked one of the few occasions this durable, dedicated professional found himself occupying headline space, although anyone who has watched Peter exercise his versatile skills and emphatic commitment, over the years, must find it hard to believe the publicity has been so scant.

But, the tough-tackling Tynesider has soldiered on, his contribution to the Burnley cause never less than one hundred per cent. He has been a back-four player of impressive efficiency, a snapping, bristling midfield terrier, and a canny opportunist up-front, during his five years at Turf Moor. And this sort of all-round ability only cost the Lancashire club £30,000 when Noble headed North from Swindon!

Peter's no-nonsense attitude towards football, and his ready acceptance of the fact he will never be included in a list of the game's "glamour boys", probably stems from his own rugged start as a wage-earner.

"When I left school," he says, "I went straight down the pits. It was a hard way to earn a living, and I suppose it was down there I first learned about pulling my weight ... doing my fair share.

"I'll always be grateful to football for giving me a way of life I would never have enjoyed otherwise. And I'll always give this game everything because of that.

"Maybe it would have been nice if I'd been one of the big names, but, believe me, I've been perfectly happy just going out to do my best for Burnley. They're a marvellous club for a young player to learn his trade with, and I am sure now this term is over we will improve next time.

'Sorry'

"I've always played it hard, but fair. I've never complained about the guy who comes at me the same way. But I can't stand the blokes who come over the top, or catch you with a real sly one and then give you a pat to show how sorry they are!

"I'm 32 now, but I know I'm good for a lot more seasons yet, and I want all of them to be with Burnley. They're a straight club, and a happy club. Playing for them is something special."

Peter Noble may have missed out on the headlines, but when he finally hangs up his boots, football will feel the draught!

On the afternoon, back in 1969, that Swindon Town broke High-bury hearts by taking the League Cup back to Wiltshire, the winners' left-back was 24-year-old John Trollope.

Seven years previously, John had lined-up for his League debut with Swindon, alongside another 17-year-old, Terry Wollen, to form the Football League's youngest-ever full-back partnership.

MATCH-

Last September, in the home game against Chesterfield, Trollope stepped out for a match that brought his tally of Football League appearances to 700. To date, this model of soccer consistency, loyalty, and endeavour, has played over 800 first team games for Swindon Town, his only League club.

Like his former team-mate, Peter Noble, John has never worried about the limelight's reluctance to settle on him.

"I've been 16 years with the club," says Swindon's Mr. Dependable, "and I've enjoyed every minute of it. Football isn't all about stars and prestige. You've got to have the plodders as well, the honest, reliable professionals who realise they'll never be stars, but keep on giving their clubs every ounce of effort week in, week out. They are 'winners' for their clubs, yet losers at the glory game.

"Of course I'll always remember that marvellous League Cup Final when we beat Arsenal 3-1 in extra-time. I reckon I tasted the big time that day. We were all heroes, but, the headline treatment didn't last. Which was natural, I suppose.

"No, I've never bothered about not being one of the game's glamour players. Maybe the terraces have only been half-filled at some of the grounds I've played on, and some of them have been practically empty, but I was playing for the only team I cared about, and everything was so friendly within the club. I've always had a great relationship with the fans, and I hope it continues for a long time.



ALAN WOODWARD



Charlton Athletic's Keith Peacock has never played in the First Division after 16 seasons at The Valley.

"I've always enjoyed my football, and I've always tried to give my club one hundred per cent effort. I think it has been appreciated, and that has given me more pleasure than any headlines."

Would John have lasted as long in the First Division as he has in the lower regions?

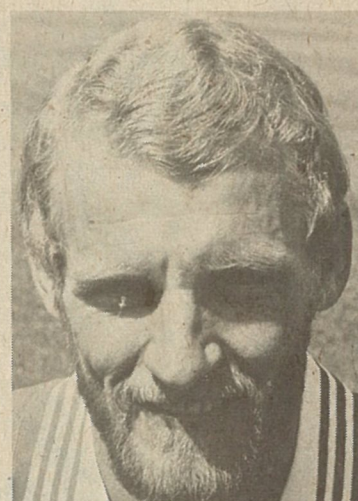
"No one will ever know, now," he replies, with a smile, "but, seriously, it's a hard question to answer.

"The pressures are greater, and the competitiveness much keener in the top-grade, but I've never been the type of player who rushes about all over the place. I've always paced myself pretty well. There were opportunities earlier in my career, but as I said before, I've always been perfectly content at the County Ground. I've enjoyed myself, made a host of friends, done my best, and I've still got time to sample the headlines again, with Swindon either as a player or as the Town youth manager — in the First Division. Well, you never know, do you?"

It would certainly be a richly-deserved and fitting climax to the

WINNERS

who seldom hit the headlines



JOHN TROLLOPE

ned over 500 first team outings, he has achieved more, much more, for his club, than some of the game's more exalted performers who take the glow of the spotlight for granted.

"Mind you," cracks Keith, "I did hit the headlines once, when I became the first substitute in the Football League during Charlton's opening match against Bolton at the start of the 1965-66 season. It would be nice to make them again, leading the club back to the First Division."

Another of soccer's accomplished "old faithfuls" is Sheffield United's Alan Woodward, who signed professional forms for the Bramall Lane outfit back in 1963.

Since then, this cultured winger has earned the admiration and respect of opponents and fans in both the First and Second Divisions by virtue of his clever ball-play, beautifully-judged crossing, and deadly finishing.

At this stage of his career, the greying, evergreen United favourite is using his expertise and experience just as effectively when he moves into midfield. His prime target now is to skipper The Blades back upstairs, and the Woodward brand of enthusiasm and optimism could well provide the lift to take them there.

The Sheffield United captain has played over 500 games for the senior side, and allegiance to his club has always been more important to him than personal glory, which probably explains why this tried and trusty Blade has never

sought to question why the limelight's fierce, demanding glare hasn't singled him out more often.

For the White Hart Lane punters, it has been a very exciting season as their idols have impressively advanced towards the First Division prestige they surrendered last term.

There has been plenty of Press and TV coverage for those shining Spurs, Steve Perryman, Glenn Hoddle, Neil McNab, John Duncan, Peter Taylor, and exciting new striker, Colin Lee, but equally vital has been the sterling contribution of Terry Naylor and John Pratt, who have never exactly found themselves shin-pad deep in publicity.

Organisation

Terry, a porter at Smithfield meat-market before he became a Spurs professional in the summer of 1969, is one of soccer's more vocal competitors. Apart from his tigerish tackling and intelligent defensive play, the Tottenham right-back has stamped his authority and sense of organisation throughout the back-four, with a steady flow of shouted advice and encouragement which has done much to instil confidence in a rearguard which struggled for practically the whole of last season.

Like fellow-Cockney John Pratt, who has added muscle, tenacity, and endless grafting, to the midfield magic of Hoddle and McNab, Naylor has never let his head drop, not even when Spurs were heading towards the Second Division, and the frustrated White Hart Lane fans were harshly voicing their disapproval of the situation.

But players like Naylor and Pratt, genuine, seasoned professionals, will always command the respect of opponents and the admiration of their club support, because, in common with Peter Noble, John Trollope, Keith Peacock, and Alan Woodward, their commitment to football stretches beyond glamour and headlines. Their game is about never offering less than 100 per cent effort all the time. It is about pride, about refusing to hide when things aren't going too well for them. It is also about making the term "unsung heroes" gleam like a decoration!



Terry Naylor (left) and John Pratt during a training work-out at White Hart Lane.

wholly admirable story of a footballer whose talent, character, and remarkable loyalty have warmed the hearts of a multitude of fans in Swindon, and beyond, through the years.

Despite a string of dismal results that has throttled Charlton Athletic's promotion optimism, skipper Keith Peacock is confident his team will finish the current season in a far more respectable position than they occupied a few weeks ago.

"Since our promotion from the Third two seasons ago," says Keith, "we had fared pretty convincingly. We finished ninth in 1976, and last term we were seventh. The lads seemed to have settled into a playing pattern, and a consistency, that I thought would make us a real promotion prospect this season. Earlier on,

we were shaping like genuine contenders, until suddenly, we just couldn't do a thing right away from home, and began dropping down the table.

"This is my 16th season with Charlton, and every one of them has been spent in the Second or Third Divisions. But I haven't given up hope of ending my career in the First.

"We fell too far behind to even think of promotion, but I still think that basically, we're as good as any of the teams that pushed the leaders. If we can start picking up points in away games, I'm certain we can challenge for promotion next term."

Peacock is another of those valiant little midfield warriors whose contact with the headlines has been almost negligible, although throughout a career that has span-



PETER NOBLE



God goes to work in mysterious ways.

Not every motorcyclist has such a high calling as the reverend gentleman above. But on the whole, two wheeled riders do tend to be a pretty nice bunch of people.

Better tempered, more polite and more sensible than the average motorist. Which is hardly surprising really.

Road tax is so low and miles to the gallon are so high that a bike runs at a fraction of the cost of a car.

And you can manoeuvre two wheels

out of all those nerve fraying traffic jams with ease. Which does wonders for your good humour.

Then you never have to compete for the dubious pleasure of pouring all your loose change into a parking meter. You simply park. Always with ease, and usually for free.

All of which explains, at least in part, why so many people are turning to two wheels these days. But unless you're a motorcyclist, the best reason for

riding a bike is the hardest to describe.

Because to call motorcycling fun is an enormous understatement.

And to understand how enormous, you simply have to ride a bike.

Since we could do with more people on the roads like the good cleric in our picture, perhaps you should.



For expert advice about motorcycles and motorcycling training schemes, consult your local dealer.



Cerezo stops Barnes in the new Brazilian style

'WE BEAT BRAZIL AT WEMBLEY'

says PETER BARNES
(Manchester City and England)

IGNORE the 1-1 scoreline. The South American maestros trooped off the pitch with the boos of a 92,000 crowd ringing in their ears and the knowledge they had forever tarnished their magnificent reputation.

It must have been a big disappointment to all those football fans who expected great things from a nation who proudly boast three World Cup wins.

But I believe England tore huge holes in Brazil's cloak of infallibility. And although our finishing was again below par, we played calm, controlled and intelligent football which made fools of the kickers and proved again English football is racing towards a new and exciting era.

Once we turn our chances into goals, we will thump the best the rest have to offer. I am not saying this because I have three England caps under my belt. I honestly believe our football is not, as so many knockers keep moaning, on its knees or in need of a return to grass roots.

When I say we beat Brazil I am referring to the fact we forced them to resort to disgraceful tactics. They lost their cool and

panicked. I can think of no greater compliment to the England team.

People ask me what is so new and different about England under manager Ron Greenwood. The answer is simple. He allows the players to play.

By that I mean he literally tells us to go out and have fun, relax and

show off how good we are to the rest of the world.

England players no longer have to suffer the idiotic dossiers or worry about the strengths of the opposition. The negative era is gone. I hope it never returns.

For example, England no longer use a midfield "hard-man" or des-

trover. This only encourages the opposition to attack us. Using such a player to mark the opposition's star player is just a boost to their confidence . . . not ours.

Now we use both wings, four forwards and take the game to our opponents. When they have the ball the wingers drop back to convert 4-2-4 into 4-4-2 until we regain possession. But that basic tactic does not need spelling out to First Division footballers.

Brazil were staggered we ignored Rivelino and Zico. They must have anticipated an England formation especially geared to marking and stifling their stars. When we ignored them and charged at the Brazilian goal they wobbled, worried and cracked.

Yes, the boots were high and the tackles often late. But Brazil also showed us their magnificent skills. The pity is they did not maintain that side of their game for 90 minutes. It would have produced a masterpiece of football.

They move the ball with arrogant ease and confidence, control and pass it first time and shoot with awesome power. So why the tough approach? I believe they misunderstand the meaning of the world "physical".

What we mean by physical contact is hard tackling, firm but fair challenges for the ball and total commitment. Brazil seem to think foul play is the basis of physical contact.

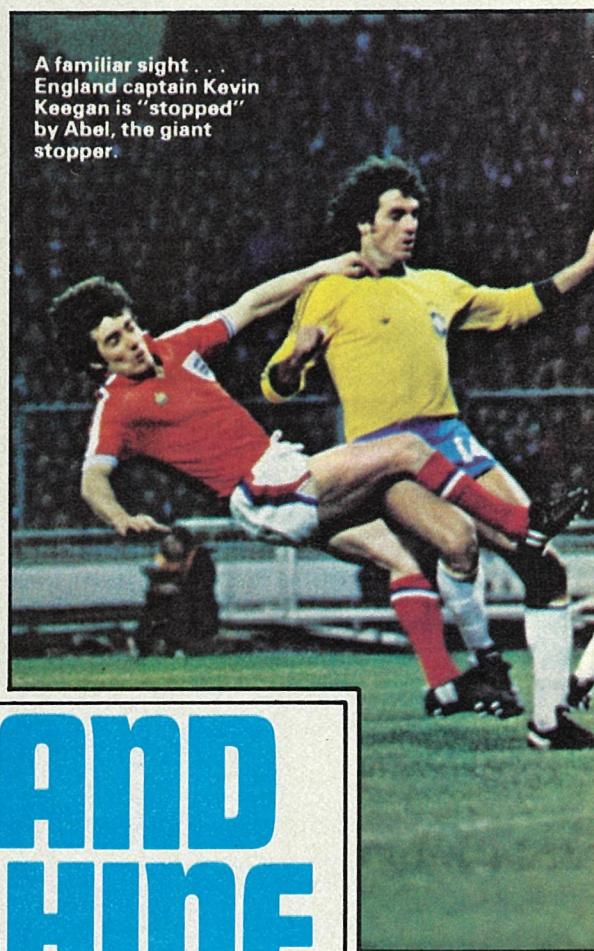
Once they come to terms with the European game and ally their skills to fair physical contact I am convinced Brazil will be worth travelling miles to watch. But in the meantime bank on England to get back on top of the world before very long.



England manager Ron Greenwood . . . he gives his players freedom to express themselves.



When the Brazilians weren't fouling England, they showed glimpses of their magical skills and Gil's goal early on was superb in build-up and execution.



A familiar sight... England captain Kevin Keegan is "stopped" by Abel, the giant stopper.

ENGLAND OUTSHINE BRAZIL



Leeds United's Tony Currie made an impressive comeback to the international scene.

THE England fans who went to Wembley hoping to see the traditional skills of Brazil were bitterly disappointed. Instead, it was Ron Greenwood's team who supplied most of the attacking and certainly did themselves far more credit than the hard nuts of Brazil. When Brazil DID play football, they were a delight to watch, but for most of the time fans were wondering if England were playing Italy again. This was essentially England's night. It was a triumph for the way they refused to be intimidated and gave notice that while they're not in the World Cup Finals... they're certainly heading in the right direction.



Bob Latchford is on hand just in case... but Kevin Keegan's free-kick was too strong for Leao to stop and the ball is safely in the back of the net.

Midfield hard-man Cerezo sees his effort parried by England goalkeeper Joe Corrigan.



Left: Dave Watson outjumps the Brazil defence, only to see his header go just over the bar.



Below: England full-back Mick Mills joins in the attack, but Leao saves.



SHOOT!

'NO PUSHOVER, BUT IT MUST BE LIVERPOOL'

I WOULD never bet against Liverpool in any Cup Final anywhere, so I'm certainly not going to tip FC Bruges to beat them in the European Cup Final at Wembley.

Liverpool apply themselves so well in Euro games it's almost impossible to go against them next week.

There is no better team in the world over two-leg ties because The Reds are always likely to score an away goal. They did it in Germany against Borussia — okay, it didn't prove vital that time, but it has on many occasions.

Wembley, of course, is a one-off affair, yet with Liverpool's experience, and the advantage of playing at what is a second Anfield, they're understandably hot favourites.

Having said that — and admitting I know little about Bruges — the Belgians are obviously a strong side. To beat Juventus is no mean feat, especially as the Italians were the team everyone wanted to avoid (after Liverpool, that is!).

I was most impressed with Liverpool against Borussia at Anfield. Liverpool made world-class stars look like ordinary players and they slaughtered the Germans.

I particularly liked the way their midfield operated and here the introduction of Graeme Souness has given Liverpool new dimensions.

He has become the team's playmaker, operating from deep positions he can win the ball and set up an attack with one long, accurate pass.

It's interesting to note the Final is between two teams whose countries have failed to qualify for the World Cup Finals. I can't see any real significance here, though, except it's a welcome boost for England certainly, to have something to really cheer about.

Mind you, our clubs have a very good record in Europe, one of the best there is, but why we haven't been more successful at international level is beyond me.

Our clubs can call on players from the other Home nations plus Eire, of course, so perhaps it's the difference in style that has been the biggest barrier.

There IS a big difference at international level. I've found the pace slower, but opponents are much better organised, especially at the back. Breaking them down is very difficult.

The experiment of playing five

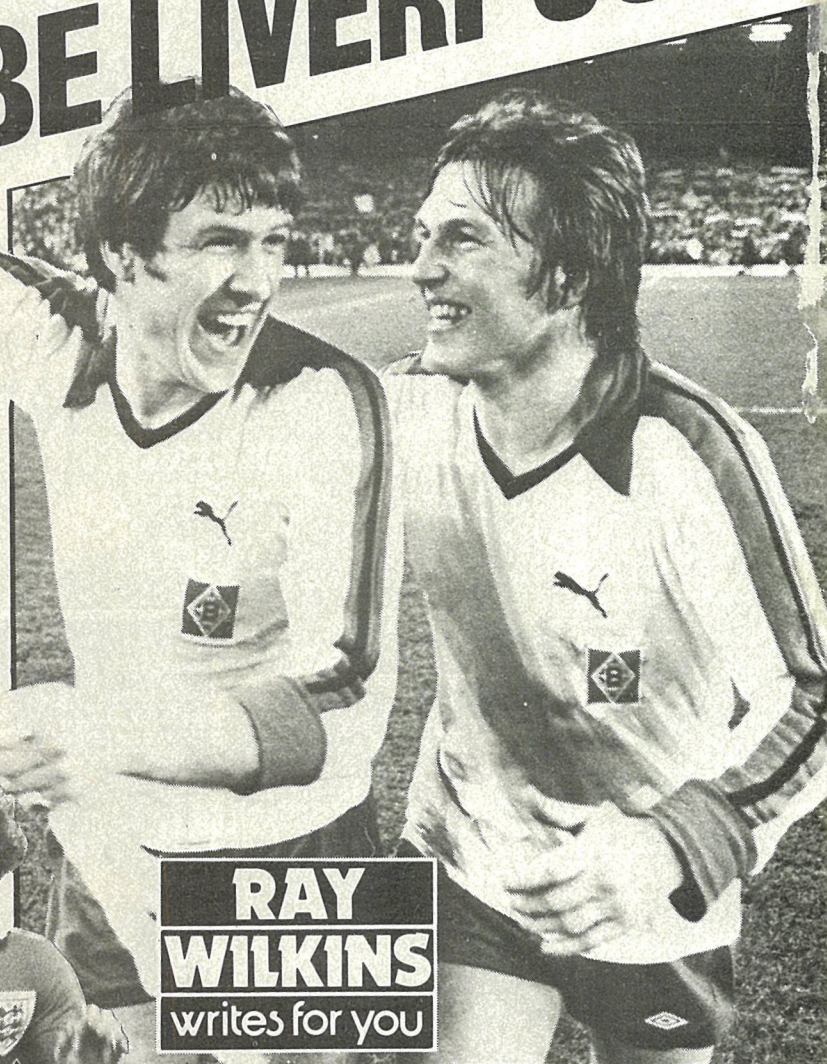
Liverpool players for England earlier this season wasn't a resounding success, although in fairness it was a tricky period and the idea wasn't given enough time.

Perhaps playing every English Liverpool player for the national team would produce good results. Would the fans accept it? If the team was winning, yes, but one or two bad results and people would be asking for Trevor Brooking, Dave Watson etc.

I must point out all the Liverpool players chosen for England earlier this season deserved their places on merit.

Other countries, notably Italy, West Germany and Holland, have

RIGHT... "Emlyn Hughes and Kenny Dalglish have just helped Liverpool beat Borussia."



**RAY
WILKINS**
writes for you

It's been suggested Liverpool aren't as effective as they were a year ago. In the League this has possibly been true, yet The Reds have had so many extra commitments that even they had to feel the pressure.

For the first time Liverpool reached the League Cup Final, they've played regularly in the European Cup, and many of their players have been on international duty.

I believe in the backs of their minds the European Cup has been their priority all season. Yet Liverpool don't seem to have found motivation in League games a problem.

Three days after beating Borussia on that fabulous night at Anfield, they went to Bristol City — who no doubt played with more determination than ever as they were facing the European Champions — and drew 1-1, a good result.

Kenny Dalglish has come in for Kevin Keegan and has done exceptionally well to score around 20 goals in his first season in England. Most Scots take a while to settle down after a transfer — not Kenny,



found that picking the nucleus of their national team from one club works well. Perhaps England will also find this one day.

though.

Having praised Liverpool, I'm happy to say Chelsea have beaten them twice this season, a feat no other team can boast.

Our first victory came in the F.A. Cup and I feel our success was due to the occasion . . . there was a full-house, more or less, we were geed up simply because we were playing Liverpool and our players responded to all this.

A few weeks later we did it again in the League and here it was more of a case of dragging ourselves off the floor, having just been knocked out of the Cup by Orient. We were fortunate to be playing Liverpool in our next game — motivation was easy.

The only way Bruges have any hope of beating The Reds is to play them at their own game and go at them from the first whistle. If Bruges sit back and let Liverpool come at them, the Belgians will be in trouble.

It'll be a daunting experience for Bruges, but they'll know in their minds they've got this far so they can't be a poor side at all.

Let's take a closer look at Liverpool. Goalkeeper Ray Clemence has had some "stick" this season and he's become a victim of his own high standards. He's the most publicised goalie in the country — on T.V. almost every week — but in my view Ray's pulled off some first-class saves this season.

The Liverpool back-four of Phil Neal, Tommy Smith, Phil Thompson and Emllyn Hughes is the last word in organisation. Tommy Smith is incredible. He's been written off more times than British Leyland, but what a pro he is.

The fans may not like him, yet every team need a hard-nut like Tommy who sets the right example with his dedicated attitude.

Liverpool's real strength is in mid-field, where Jimmy Case, Terry

McDermott, Graeme Souness and Ray Kennedy are all potential goal-scorers. Liverpool don't have a recognised striker who can usually score 20 goals a season (even though Dalglish has reached this total).

They don't need one as all their players find the back of the net regularly, especially the mid-fielders.

I've noticed Jimmy Case seems to score a lot of European goals. This is because the Continentals give him just a little more room than British defenders and back off him. This has been fatal for them.

Up-front, Kenny Dalglish and Steve Heighway cause all sorts of problems. I can see Dalglish becoming one of the outstanding personalities in the World Cup Finals.

Four days before the European Cup Final, Arsenal face Ipswich at the same stadium and I'm tipping The Gunners to win the F.A. Cup again.

It would be nice to see the under-dogs win, as Ipswich are, and I'm a close friend of Mick Mills and Brian Talbot from England get-togethers.

My heart says Arsenal, and as a London player it'll be good to see some silverware coming to the capital.

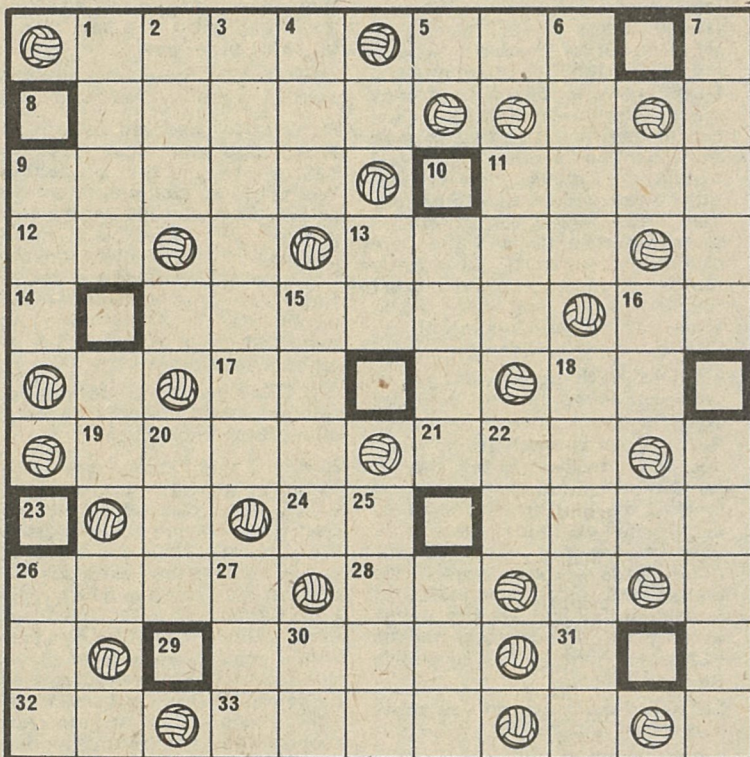
Join me again in two weeks when I'll be previewing Scotland/England and England/Hungary.

Until then,

Raymond

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Bristol City striker. Answers on page 42.



ACROSS:—

- (1) Sh-f-ie-- United. Ran away from the omissions.
- (5) — Gray, Leeds United winger.
- (8) — Brooking, West Ham midfielder.
- (9) R-cr---io- Ground, Aldershot. Consumed from the missing letters.
- (10) — Road Ground of Oxford United.
- (12) Ray H--kin of Leeds.
- (13) Authoritatively prohibits (perhaps for bad conduct).
- (14) Winners of the British Championship 1976-77.
- (16) --ton Park, ground of West Ham.
- (17) D-nc-ste-Rover- from Belle Vue Ground.
- (18) Backwards and missing from Shr-w-b-ry Town.
- (19) Many clubs (or teams) have a special one they can perform.
- (21) Gerry-r--cis of Queens Park Rangers.
- (24) — Town from County Ground.
- (26) Way out of the ground, for instance.
- (28) Ernie-ow- of Q.P.R.
- (29) Essential item for use after the post-match bath.
- (31) — Macari, Manchester United player.
- (32) Clive Wo--s (Ipswich). The omissions reversed.
- (33) Gary ----roy of Birmingham City.

DOWN:—

- (1) Trevor —, Birmingham City and England striker.
- (2) --ices-er City; The Filberts.
- (3) They last won the F.A. Cup in 1965/66 (beating Sheffield Wednesday 3-2).
- (4) — Masson of Derby County.
- (6) — Park, home of Dundee.
- (7) Liverpool won it in 1976/77. (8 & 3)
- (8) Take four letters from Nantes (French League club) for refreshments.
- (10) — Town from the Field Mill ground.
- (11) Pat Holl--- of West Ham.
- (13) Take three letters from Bradford for a drinks counter.
- (15) Falls behind.
- (16) Paul Br--h of West Ham.
- (18) Unrightfully or excessively.
- (20) Leave out . . . perhaps from the club programme.
- (22) Tony Mc--drew of Middlesbrough.
- (23) Many goals are scored by the use of it.
- (25) Co-d--beat- (Scots Division Two). At what time from the missing letters.
- (27) All the teams struggle to be — of the League!
- (30) Peter-ith- of League Champions Nottingham Forest.



'We CAN win the World Cup'

No.14
Bruce Rioch
SCOTLAND

SHOOT: A lot of people believe you are already in the last eight, that the First Round will be a mere formality. How do you feel about the draw?

RIOCH: Only a fool would suggest any World Cup match is a formality. I remember reading about England losing 1-0 to the unknown United States in 1950. And who will ever forget North Korea beating Italy in 1966? No, Scotland will treat every opponent as if they were potential World Cup winners. Having said that, the draw is good from Scotland's point of view. I expect us to qualify with Holland. But do not underestimate Peru or Iran. I saw highlights of Peru on television recently and they are skilful and fanatical about their football. Iran have proved what they can do by only losing 1-0 to Wales recently and holding Argentina to a draw last season.

SHOOT: Is there any danger of over-confidence in the Scotland camp?

RIOCH: None whatsoever. Manager Ally MacLeod is too shrewd for that sort of nonsense. We have worked too hard to get this far to allow silly attitudes wreck four years sweat and effort. All the Scottish players are aware of the dangers of taking any match or individual lightly. All the same, every team in Argentina, bar the hosts and holders, had to qualify for their place.

SHOOT: How much do you know about Iran and Peru?

RIOCH: Not half as much now as I shall know before boarding the plane for Argentina. What I do know suggests both countries merit respect. As I said, Peru are skilful. They are also unpredictable. They are also football crazy. The day they qualified for the finals their national president pulled on a player's shirt and led the singing of their national anthem. They are the Scots of South America. The days when

nations such as Iran could be dismissed as up and coming hopefuls are over. Frank O'Farrell took his Manchester United managerial experience and spent a considerable time out there improving their technique and organisation. Judging by their results over the past two years Iran are difficult to break down and good as a unit, albeit a bit short of firepower.

SHOOT: Was there any country in particular you wanted to avoid?

RIOCH: No, because to win the World Cup you must meet and beat the best in the competition. You might as well play them first as last. I am pleased we were not drawn in Argentina's group because of the desperation they will probably experience playing their own fans as well as their opponents. Argentina are expected to qualify for the last eight. That's pressure.

SHOOT: How highly do you rate Holland? Will Cruyff's absence affect them very much?

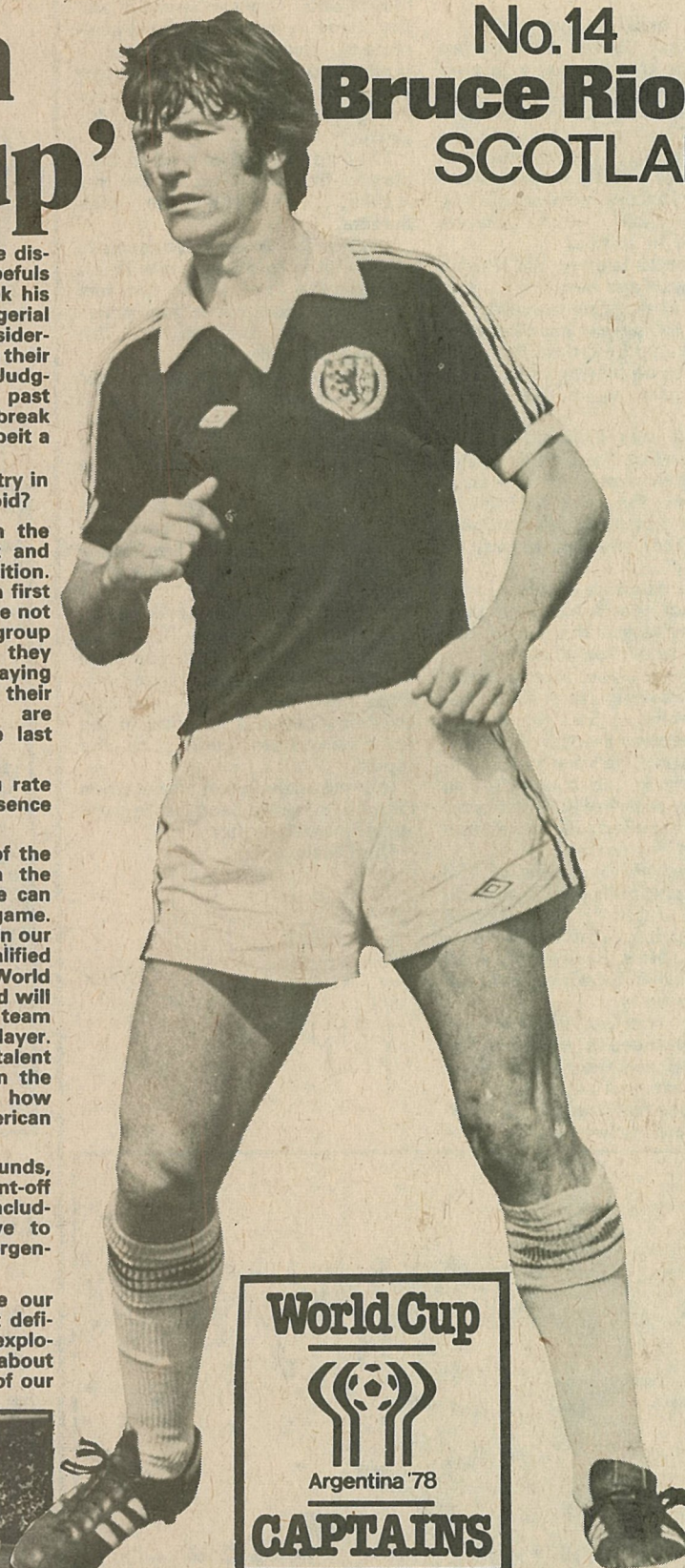
RIOCH: I rate Holland one of the best footballing nations in the world, but I also believe we can beat them playing our own game. We play them third and last in our group, so if we have both qualified by then the game could be a World Cup classic. I am sure Holland will miss Johan Cruyff. Any team would miss a world-class player. But they have tremendous talent in depth, as they proved in the 1974 Finals. I just wonder how they will adapt to South American conditions.

SHOOT: In the preliminary rounds, Scotland had one player sent-off and seven players booked, including yourself. Will you have to change your approach in Argentina?

RIOCH: We will not change our approach, but we will most definitely avoid all potentially explosive situations. Let's be fair about this. We are fiercely proud of our



The Peru side line-up before their game against Argentina in March. Peru lost 2-1.



country and the fact we represent our country. So passions run high inside a Scotsman. I do not condone the fact we have stepped out of line. We were justly punished for rash moments or flashpoints. We have learned our skill is the only weapon likely to succeed in Argentina. So while the fire and passion will remain, the accent will be on channelling both into victory.

SHOOT: Was your game against Argentina last June a warning of things to come?

RIOCH: No more so than in many other away internationals. Too much has been said about the Argentinian footballers. We were made very welcome by the Argentine fans. Our match was hard and Willie Johnston was sent-off, as later proved unjustly, for retaliating. But believe me I have experienced tougher tactics playing in Europe. Our World Cup will be what we make it, not what other teams make it for us. There is a lot at stake so let's not pretend this is going to be a joyride. But that's



Willie Johnston (dark shirt) in action against Argentina last summer. The West Brom winger was sent-off in this match.

not to say the games are going to be brawls.

SHOOT: Would you say Scotland are too ruthless at times?

RIOCH: We have been known to be over-enthusiastic. But ruthless, no. Put it down to our fierce determination to win or just our Celtic natures. Whatever the reason, we play with fire in our bellies, skill, and the conviction we are the best international team around. Confidence is important, so is courage, determination, passion and the will to overcome all odds. Ruthlessness has nothing to do with it.

SHOOT: How does this Scotland team compare with the team that played in the 1974 World Cup Finals?

RIOCH: In a sentence, we are more experienced. The 1974 team were knocked out of the World Cup without losing a game in West Germany, something even the triumphant Germans could not boast. But we played Zaire first, won 2-0 then watched Yugoslavia beat them 9-0 and Brazil win 3-0. Goal difference, only one, cost Scotland a place in the last eight. This time around we know all about the importance of scoring as many goals as possible, even when we're well in front. And many of the current squad are lads who went through the disappointment of 1974. They are not prepared to experience that agony again.

SHOOT: Knowing the dislike Scot-

tish fans have for the English in football, have you ever been embarrassed by the fact you were born in England?

RIOCH: Only by Englishmen. Some people ask me what it's like being an Englishman captaining Scotland. My reply is simple. I am a Scotsman from hair-parting to toenails. My father was an RSM in the Royal Scots Guards, stationed at Aldershot. That's how I came to be born in England. We also lived in Germany for a while. I could have been born there. But would that have made me a German? Of course not.

SHOOT: Are you glad England will not be in Argentina?

RIOCH: No, I am very disappointed. British football would have benefited greatly if England had made it. I make my living in the Football League and I appreciate the importance of international prestige with Scotland. So I know English football would have recaptured many lost fans if the national team were going to Argentina. Can you imagine the incredible excitement of an England v Scotland World Cup Final? No, it's a great pity the Auld Enemy failed again.

SHOOT: Which countries do you respect most in the Finals?

RIOCH: The West Germans because they are holders, Brazil because they are talented, superb to watch and sizzling on form, Holland for their overall level of

skill and versatility and Italy because they are so difficult to break down.

SHOOT: What sort of World Cup do you think it will be?

RIOCH: Magnificent. I can't wait to see which players emerge as the unexpected stars of the series. Remember Pele in 1958, Hurst in 1966, Jairzinho in 1970 and Bonhof in 1974? I hope one of the Scottish lads emerges as that star. We can certainly match the rest of the world when it comes to skilful individuals.

SHOOT: Many Scotland fans will make the long trip to Argentina. How much does their loyal support mean to the players?

RIOCH: Words cannot express how much the fans mean to us, because we are them and they are us. That's what playing for Scotland is all about. No player who has played at Hampden Park can deny that the roar is something terrifying to hear. When we play at Wembley the Scottish supporters simply take over. I do have a word of warning for them, however. Be as fanatical as you want: but for God's sake behave. The Argentinian police are not like the British bobbies. Our fans are travelling across the world to a country totally unlike any they have visited

before. The regime is military, strict and stands no nonsense from its own people, never mind invading foreigners. I like Argentina. The people appear to like us. So please do not do anything over zealous to wreck that goodwill.

SHOOT: What is the main difference between the Scotland fan and the England fan?

RIOCH: Scotland fans are more ardent, more appreciative and prepared to travel to the ends of the earth to watch us play. England's fans are more reserved and sometimes hypercritical. They appear to believe England are automatically a world power because they are England. But until they accept their team for what it is, an international power in the making, their support will continue to be of the fair weather kind.

SHOOT: How well can Scotland do?

RIOCH: We can win the World Cup. I believe we have the experience and ability necessary to match the rest of the world. But then every national captain is expected to say the same thing. Winning the World Cup is obviously our aim. But we are convinced that we will return at the end of the 1978 World Cup Finals with a medal from one of the top four places.

FOCUS ON DAVE NAREY Dundee United

FULL NAME: David Narey

BIRTHPLACE: Dundee

BIRTHDATE: 12th June, 1956

HEIGHT: 6ft

WEIGHT: 12st

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

MARRIED: Yes, to Norma

CHILDREN: None

CAR: Triumph Dolomite

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Johan Cruyff

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM:

Holland

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:

They're all difficult

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:

Making my debut for Scotland

BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring goals

(not very often)

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:

Not being in the Scottish Cup Final

side against Celtic in 1974

BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Spain

FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak and

chips

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES:

Snooker, playing records

MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES:

Waiting at airports

FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Two

Ronnies, any sports programme

FAVOURITE SINGERS: John

Miles, Eagles, Kiki Dee

FAVOURITE ACTORS: Charles

Bronson, Clint Eastwood

BEST FRIEND: I'd like to think I

have many

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON

CAREER: The people who

encouraged me when I began playing

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER:

Travelling home after losing



Dave is one of the up-and-coming stars named by Alfie MacLeod in his World Cup squad of 40.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Youth, Under-23, Under-21 and

about ten minutes in the full team

PERSONAL AMBITION: To be

financially secure

PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To

help United win something

IF YOU WEREN'T A

FOOTBALLER WHAT DO YOU

THINK YOU'D BE? Don't know

WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD

WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO

MEET? Nobody in particular

Dave Narey



Don Masson of Scotland beats England's Stuart Pearson.

RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

MONDAY, MARCH 27

THIRD DIVISION

(Continued)

BURY (0) 1 (Farrell)
PRESTON (1) 1 (Thomson) 9,783
 Bury: Forrest; Kennedy (Johnson), Hatton, Bailey, Wilson, Stanton, Farrell, Rowland, Robins, McIlwraith.
 Preston: Tunks; McMahon, Cameron, Burns, Doyle, Coleman, Spavin, Haslegrave, Thomson, Elwiss, Bruce.

CARLISLE (1) 1 (McVitie)
WREXHAM (3) 4 (Whittle 4, 1 pen.) 8,731
 Carlisle: Swinburne; Carr, Collins, McDonald, McCartney, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Tait, Kemp, Hamilton.
 Wrexham: Niedzwiecki; Hill, Dwyer, Davis, Roberts, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, Lyons, Whittle, Cartwright.

CHESTER (0) 1 (Crossley pen.)
WALSALL (1) 1 (Buckley) 4,671
 Chester: Lloyd; Nickas, Raynor, Storton, Delgado, Jones (Jeffries), Crossley, Livermore, Edwards (I), Mellor, Phillips.
 Walsall: Kearns; Macken, Caswell, Harrison, Serella, Evans, Dennehy, Bates, Austin, Buckley, Birch.

CHESTERFIELD 0
ROTHERHAM 0 6,960
 Chesterfield: Letheran; Tarrt, Burton, Chamberlain, Cottam, O'Neill, Cammack, Fern, Green, Kowalski, Walker.
 Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Rhodes, Standcliffe, Green, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Goodfellow, Nix.

LINCOLN 0
COLCHESTER 0 4,709
 Lincoln: Grotier; Guest, Leigh, Neale, Wigginton, Cooper, Jones, Graham, Harford, Hubbard, Hault.
 Colchester: Walker; Cook, Wignall, Leslie, Packer, Dowman, Foley, Gough, Buckell, Allinson, Dyer.

PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 (McCaffrey)
GILLINGHAM (1) 1 (Weatherly) 8,108
 Portsmouth: Middleton; Wilson, Taylor (Bernard), Ellis, Foster, Denyer, Pullar, Lathan, Garwood, Piper (S), McCaffrey.
 Gillingham: Hillyard; Knight, Armstrong, Overton, Young, Crabbe, Nicholl, Weatherly, Price, Westwood, Richardson.

SHEFF. WED (0) 1 (Tynan)
TRANMERE (0) 0 12,976
 Sheff. W. Bolder; Walden, Grant (Leman), Rushbury, Dowd, Mullen, Wyldie, Porterfield, Tynan, Johnson, Hornsby.
 Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Flood, Bramhall, Philpotts, Evans, Peplow, Palios, Moore, Tynan, Allen.

SWINDON (1) 3 (Moss 3)
OXFORD (0) 2 (Foley, Seacole) 9,517
 Swindon: Allan; McLaughlin, Ford, Trollope, Carter, Proffitt, Moss, Kamara, Guthrie, McHale, Cunningham.
 Oxford: Burton; Kingston, Fogg, Briggs, Bodel, Jeffrey, Seacole, Taylor, Foley, Curran, Duncan.

FOURTH DIVISION

BRENTFORD (1) 2 (Phillips 2, 1 pen.)
ALDERSHOT (0) 0 12,570
 Brentford: Bond; Allen, Tucker, Shrubbs, Kruse, Graham (W), Carlton, Graham (J), Alder, McCulloch, Phillips.
 Aldershot: Johnson; Crosby, Wooler, Dixon, Howitt, Jopling, Longhorn, Brodie, Needham, Dungworth, Hooper (McGregor).

CREWE (1) 2 (Coyne, Bowles pen.)
BARNLEY (0) 1 (Little) 3,014
 Crewe: Cradlington; Bevan, Cheetham, Lugg, Bowles, Rimmer, Davies (D), Purdie, Coyne, Davies (W), McGinley.
 Barnley: Springett; Murphy, Collins, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Nixon, Joicey, Peachey (Riley), Little, Miller.

HALIFAX 0
GRIMSBY 0 2,481
 Halifax: Leonard; Trainer, Bradley, Smith, Burke, Dunleavy, Firth, Johnston, Mountford, Lawson, Bell.
 Grimsby: Wainman; Waters, Booth, Lester, Barker (Drinkell), Hanvey, Ford, Liddell, Donovan, Moore, Brolly.

READING (0) 2 (Earles, Kearns)
STOCKPORT (1) 1 (Fletcher) 3,303
 Reading: Turner; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Earles (Kearney), Nelson, Kearns, Lewis, Davies.
 Stockport: Cassidy; Smith, Rutter, Thompson, Lawler, Fogarty (Faulkner), Massey, Halford, Park, Fletcher, Howard.

SCUNTHORPE 0
DONCASTER 0 3,592
 Scunthorpe: Crawford; Davy, Pilling, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, Grimes, Kilmore, Keeley, Lumby, Wigg.
 Doncaster: Peacock; Cannell, Hemsley, Laidlaw, Gray, Taylor, Bowden, Owen, Habbins, Olney, Snodin.

SOUTHEND (0) 1 (Laverick)
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 3 (Howey, Holmes, Butler) 8,202
 Southend: Freeman; Banks, Yates, Laverick, Young, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Abbott, Fell (Franklin).
 Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Sandercock, Holmes, Sutton, Branagan, Butler, Hart, Howey, Johnson, Gray.

SOUTHPORT (0) 1 (Brooks)
DARLINGTON 0 1,918
 Southport: Cumbe; Kisby, Higham, O'Neill, Brooks, Fisher, Hilton, Wilson, Howarth, Birchall, Cooper.
 Darlington: Burleigh; Stone, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Young, Maitland, Young, Lyons, Jones, Seal, Wann.

TORQUAY (1) 2 (Raper 2, 1 pen.)
SWANSEA (0) 4 (Bruton, Toshack, Curtis 2) 5,250
 Torquay: Wake; Twitchin, Parsons, Raper, Green, Darke, Tomlin (Cooper), Lawrence, Boulton, Brown, Coffill.
 Swansea: Barber; Evans, Morris, Lally, May, Bruton, Moore (K), James (R), Curtis, Toshack, Chappell.

WIMBLEDON (2) 5 (Cork 2, Leslie, Bryant, Parsons)
ROCHDALE (0) 1 (Scaife) 2,737
 Wimbledon: Goddard; Bryant, Bradley, Briley, Galvin, Donaldson, Leslie, Denny, Connell, Cork, Parsons.
 Rochdale: Slack; Hallows, Oliver, Morrin, Scott, Bannan, Seddon, Scaife, Shaw (Owen), Esser, O'Loughlin.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (2) 3 (Francis 2, 1 pen, Bertschin)
WEST HAM (0) 0 23,554
 Birmingham: Montgomery; Calderwood, Pendrey, Towers, Gallagher, Howard, Page, Francis, Bertschin, Hibbitt, Fox.
 West Ham: Ferguson; Bonds, Lampard, Cur-bishley, Taylor, Green, Pike, Holland, Cross, Brooking, Robson.

COVENTRY (2) 4 (Thompson, Hutchison 2, Wallace)
WOLVES (0) 0 25,661
 Coventry: Blyth; Roberts, McDonald, Yorath, Holton, Osgood, Beck, Wallace, Thompson (Murphy), Powell, Hutchison.
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daley, Hazell, McAlle, Patching, Carr, Eves, Brazier, Daly.

LEEDS (2) 5 (Hankin, Gray (F), Gray (E) 3, 1 pen.)
LEICESTER (0) 1 (Davies pen.) 21,145
 Leeds: Harvey; Madeley (Lorimer), Hampton, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Harris, Hankin, Gray (E), Gray (F), Graham.
 Leicester: Wallington; Whitworth, Kember, Williams, Sims, Webb, Weller, Hughes (Armstrong), Davies, Salmons, Goodwin.

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Walsh)
BURNLEY (1) 1 (Smith) 13,393
 Blackpool: Hesford; Gardner, Milligan, Ronson, McEwan, Suddaby, Tong, Ainscow, Walsh, Hatton, Waldron.
 Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Rodaway, Cochrane, Ingham, Fletcher, Kindon, Smith.

CHARLTON (3) 3 (Peacock, Robinson 2)
STOKE (1) 2 (O'Callaghan, Crooks) 7,956
 Charlton: Wood; Berry, Shaw, Tydeman, Shipperley, Dugdale, Powell, Robinson, Flanagan, Peacock, Brisley (Gritt).
 Stoke: Jones; Marsh, Scott, Kendall (Busby), Smith, Dodd, Waddington, Richardson, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Gregory.

Postponed: Bristol R v Brighton

THIRD DIVISION

CHESTERFIELD (1) 2 (Fern pen., Simpson)
CARLISLE (1) 1 (McCartney pen.) 4,248
 Chesterfield: Letheran; Tarrt, Burton, Chamberlain, Cottam, O'Neill, Cammack, Fern, Simpson, Walker, Kowalski.
 Carlisle: Swinburne; Collins, McCartney, McDonald, Tait, Parker, Sawyers, Bonnyman, Clarke (MacLean), Kemp, Hamilton.

EXETER 0
PLYMOUTH 0 8,334
 Exeter: Key; Templeman, Hore, Dolve, Giles, Hodge, Kellow, Randell, Bowker, Holman, Hatch.
 Plymouth: Barron; James (C), Uzzell, Bason, Foster, James (T), Megson, Taylor (Rogers), Binney, Fear, Trussion.

PETERBOROUGH (1) 2 (Butlin 2)
HEREFORD (1) 1 (Sheedy) 5,036
 Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Hughes, Doyle, Turner, Ross, Slough, McEwan, Butlin, Anderson, Robson.
 Hereford: Mellor; Price, Burrows, Cornes, Layton, Marshall (Spiring), Stephens, Sheedy, Crompton, Davey, Emery.

PORT VALE (1) 1 (Griffiths pen.)
CAMBRIDGE (1) 1 (Finney) 4,240
 Port Vale: Connaughton; Lumsden, Griffiths, Ridley, Harris, Hawkins, Chamberlain, Lamb, Beamish, Moore, Dulson.
 Cambridge: Webster; Howard, Buckley, Stringer, Fallon, Watson, Streete, Spriggs, Morgan, Finney, Biley.

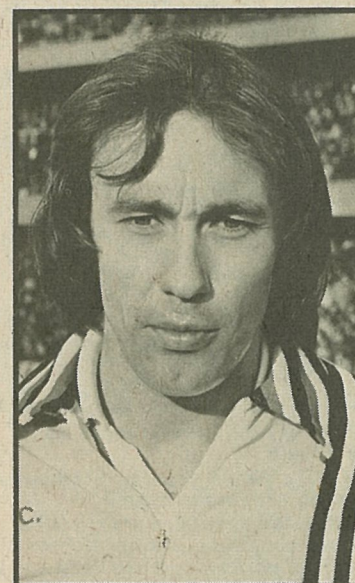
FOURTH DIVISION

BOURNEMOUTH (1) 4 (Shanahan, Showers 2, Finnigan)
NEWPORT (1) 2 (Williams, Jones) 2,479
 Bournemouth: Baker; Butler, Miller, Impey, Brown, Riley, Johnson, Showers, Finnigan, Lennard, Shanahan.
 Newport: Turner; Steel, Relish, Emanuel, Walker (R), McLaughlin, Aizlewood, Goddard, Clark, Jones, Williams.

DONCASTER (0) 1 (Owen)
YORK (0) 1 (Hope) 2,385
 Doncaster: Peacock; Cannell, Robinson, Laidlaw, Gray, Taylor, Bowden, Owen, Habbins, Olney, Snodin.
 York: Brown; Clements; Hutt, Scott, Topping, Bainbridge (Hope), Novacki, Hunt, Randall, McDonald, Staniforth.

HALIFAX (1) 2 (Burke, Bell)
SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 (Lumby pen., Grimes) 2,215
 Halifax: Leonard; Trainer, Bradley, Smith, Burke, Dunleavy, Firth, Flavell, Mountford, Lawson, Bell.
 Scunthorpe: Crawford; O'Donnell, Pilling, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, Grimes, Kilmore, Keeley, Lumby, Wigg.

NORTHAMPTON (0) 0
WATFORD (1) 2 (Bolton, Mayes) 8,041
 Northampton: Parton; Geldmintis, Mead, Best, Robertson, Bryant, Farrington, Liddle, Reilly, McGowan, Christie.
 Watford: Rankin; Bolton, Pritchett, Booth, Ellis (Blissett), Garner, Downes, Jenkins, Joslyn, Mayes, Pollard.



Sammy McIlroy scored for Manchester United against Aston Villa in a 1-1 home draw.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

EUROPEAN CUP (Semi-Final first-leg)

BORUSSIA MOENCHENGLADBACH (1) 2 (Hannes, Bonhof)
LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Johnson)
 Borussia: Kleff; Vogts, Hannes, Wohlers, Bonhof, Nielsen, Del Hays, Wimmer, Lienen (Danner), Kulik, Heynckes.
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Smith, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Dalglish, Case, Heighway (Souness), McDermott (Johnson), Callaghan.

FIRST DIVISION

MAN. UTD. (0) 1 (McIlroy)
ASTON VILLA (0) 1 (Deehan) 41,625
 Man. U.: Stepany; Greenhoff (B.), Houston, McIlroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J.) (McCreery), Pearson, Macari, Jordan.
 Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Smith, Phillips, McNaught, Mortimer, Deehan, Little, Gray, Cowans, Carrodus.

MIDDLESBROUGH (2) 2 (Mills, Cummins)
NOTTM. FOREST (1) 2 (Woodcock, O'Neill) 25,445
 Middlesbrough: Brown; Craggs, Bailey, Mahoney, Boam, Ramage, Mills, Cummins, Ashcroft, McAndrew, Armstrong.
 Nottm. F.: Shilton; Bowyer, Clark, O'Hare, Needham, Burns, O'Neill, Gemmill, Withe, Woodcock, Robertson.

NORWICH 0
DERBY 0 16,349
 Norwich: Hansbury; Bond, Sullivan, Ryan, Jones, Powell, Neighbour, Suggett, Paddon, Reeves, Lythgoe.
 Derby: Middleton; Langan, Buckley, Rioch, McFarland, Todd, Curran, Daly, Powell (Daniel), George, Ryan.

NEWCASTLE (0) 2 (Kennedy, Bird)
MAN. CITY (1) 2 (Palmer 2) 20,246
 Newcastle: Mahoney; Nattrass, Kennedy, Barton, Bird, Nulty, Barrowclough, Burns, Mitchell, McGhee, Walker.
 Man. C.: Corrigan; Clements, Donachie, Doyle, Watson, Owen, Channon, Booth, Palmer, Power, Barnes.

SECOND DIVISION

CARDIFF (1) 1 (Bishop)
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0 11,359
 Cardiff: Healey; Thomas, Pethard, Campbell, Pontin, Larmour, Grapes, Dwyer, Bishop, Went, Buchanan.
 Southampton: Wells; Andruszewski, Coak, Williams, Nicholl, Pickering, Ball, Boyer, MacDougall, Holmes, Funnell (Hebbard).

SCOTTISH PREMIER

DUNDEE UTD. (0) 1 (Holt)
MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (Stevens) 5,000
 Dundee U: McAlpine; Rennie, Kopel, Fleming, Hegarty, Narey, Sturrock (Kirkwood), Robinson, Bourke, Holt, Payne.
 Motherwell: Rennie; Watson, Wark, McLeod (McLaren), McVie, Stevens, Marinello (Kennedy), Pettigrew, Clinging, Davidson Mungall.

HIBERNIAN (0) 1 (McLeod pen.)
RANGERS (1) 1 (Parlane) 21,245
 Hibs: McDonald; Brownlie, Smith, McNamara, Stewart, Bremner, Murray, McLeod, Hutchinson, Duncan, Higgins.
 Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Greig, Forsyth, Jackson, McDonald, McLean, Hamilton, Johnstone, Smith, Parlane.

PARTICK (0) 0
CELTIC (2) 4 (Burns 2, McDonald, McAdams) 12,000
 Partick: Rough; Mackie, Whittaker, Marr, McAdam, Anderson, Houston, Gibson, O'Hara, Sommer, McQuade.
 Celtic: Latchford; Sneddon, Lynch, Aitken, McDonald, Dowie, Glavin, Edvaldsson, McAdam, Burns, Dowie.

ST MIRREN (0) 1 (Stark)
ABERDEEN (1) 2 (Davidson, Archibald) 5,900
 St Mirren: McCulloch; Beckett, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Reid, Copland, Abercrombie, Stark, Bone, Richardson, McGarvey.
 Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, Ritchie, McMaster, Garner, Miller, Sullivan, Archibald, Harper, Jarvie, Davidson.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

THIRD DIVISION

TRANMERE (0) 1 (Allen)
SWINDON (0) 1 (Guthrie) 2,812
 Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Flood, Parry, Philipotts, Evans, Cliff, Palios, Moore, Tynan, Allen.
 Swindon: Allan; McLaughlin, Ford, Trollope, Carter, Prohett, Moss, Kamara, Guthrie, McHale, Cunningham.

FOURTH DIVISION

BARNLEY (3) 3 (Warnock, Little, Joicey pen.)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 5,224
 Barnley: Springett; Murphy, Collins, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Warnock, Prendergast, Joicey, Little, Millar.
 Bournemouth: Baker; Butler, Miller, Impey, Brown, Riley, Johnson, Showers, Finnigan, Lennard, Paterson (Cunningham).

STOCKPORT (1) 1 (Thompson)
SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Keeley) 2,774
 Stockport: Rogan; Lawler, Rutter, Thompson, Smith, Park, Massey, Halford, Summerbee, McBeth, Howard.
 Scunthorpe: Crawford; Davy, O'Donnell, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, Grimes, Kilmore, Keeley, Lumby, Wigg.

YORK (0) 1 (Novacki)
HALIFAX (1) 1 (Bell) 1,526
 York: Brown; Clements, Hutt, Scott, Topping, Bainbridge, Novacki, Hunter, Randall, McDonald (Taylor), Staniforth.
 Halifax: Leonard; Bradley, Loska, Smith, Burke, Dunleavy, Firth, Flavell, Mountford, Lawson, Bell.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

FIRST DIVISION

ARSENAL (1) 3 (Macdonald 2, Brady)
MAN. UTD. (1) 1 (Jordan) 40,739
 Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Rix, Macdonald, Stapleton, Hudson.
 Man. U: Stepney; Greenhoff (B), Houston, McIlroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Jordan, Pearson, Macari, Hill (McCreery).

ASTON VILLA (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (3) 3 (Daiglish 2, Kennedy) 40,190
 Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Smith, Phillips, McNaught, Mortimer, Deehan, Little, Gray, Cowans, Carrodus (Gregory).
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Smith, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Daiglish, Case, Heighway, McDermott, Johnson.

BRISTOL C (1) 3 (Nulty o.g., Ritchie, Hunter)
NEWCASTLE (0) 1 (Barrowclough) 17,344
 Bristol C: Shaw; Sweeney, Merrick, Gow, Rodgers, Hunter, Tainton, Ritchie, Royle, Cormack, Mann.

Newcastle: Mahoney; Nattrass, Kennedy, Barton, Bird (Scott), Blackhall, Barrowclough, Burns, Nulty, McGhee, Walker.

EVERTON (2) 2 (Dobson, Latchford)
DERBY (1) 1 (George) 38,213
 Everton: Wood; Jones, Pejic, Lyons, Daracott, Ross, King, Dobson, Latchford, McKenzie, Thomas.
 Derby: Middleton; Langan, Buckley, Rioch (Bartlett), McFarland, Todd, Curran, Daly, Daniel, George, Ryan.

LEICESTER (0) 0
W.B.A. (0) 1 (Brown T.) 14,637
 Leicester: Wallington; Whitworth, Williams, Kember, May, Webb, Weller, Hughes, Smith (Davies), Salmons, Armstrong.
 W.B.A.: Godden; Mulligan, Statham, Brown (T), Wile, Robertson, Martin, Brown (A), Regis, Trewick, Johnston.

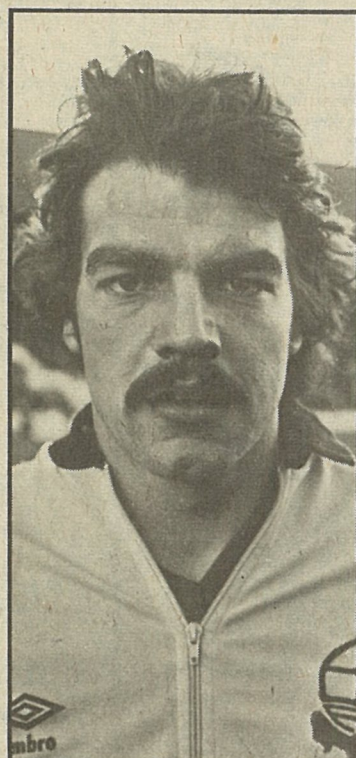
MAN. CITY (1) 2 (Palmer, Channon)
IPSWICH (0) 1 (Mariner) 34,975
 Man. C: Corrigan; Clements, Donachie, Doyle, Watson, Owen, Channon, Booth, Palmer, Hartford, Barnes.
 Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Talbot, Hunter, Osman, Osborne (Lambert), Wark, Mariner, Geddis, Woods.

NORWICH (1) 3 (Ryan, Jones, Hart o.g.)
LEEDS (0) 0 19,615
 Norwich: Hansbury; Bond, Sullivan, Ryan, Jones, Powell, Neighbour, Suggett, Paddon, Reeves, Lythgoe.
 Leeds: Harvey; Reaney, Hampton, Flynn, (Thomas), Hart, Cherry, Harris, Gray (E), Lorimer, Gray (F), Graham.

NOTTM FOREST (0) 3 (Burns, O'Neill, Robertson)
CHELSEA (1) 1 (Langley) 31,262
 Nottm F: Shilton; Bowyer, Clark, O'Hare, Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Gemmill (Barrett), Withe, Woodcock, Robertson.
 Chelsea: Bonetti; Locke, Harris, Britton, Droy, Wicks, Finnieston, Swain, Langley, Lewington, Walker.

Q.P.R. (0) 1 (Busby)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 12,925
 Q.P.R.: Parkes; Clement, Gillard, Hollins, Howe, Perkins, Shanks, Busby, Wallace, Bowles, McGee.
 Middlesbrough: Brown; Craggs, Bailey, Mahoney, Boam, Ramage, Mills, Cummins, Ashcroft, McAndrew (Walsh), Armstrong.

WEST HAM (1) 2 (Taylor T., Holland)
COVENTRY (0) 1 (McDonald) 19,260
 West Ham: Ferguson; Bonds, Lampard, Curbishley, Taylor (T), Green, Pike (Martin), Holland, Hales, Brooking, Robson.
 Coventry: Blyth; Roberts, McDonald, Yorath, Holton, Osgood, Beck, Wallace, Thompson (Coop), Powell, Hutchison.



Bolton's Sam Allardyce netted one of his side's goals in their 2-0 win v. Orient.

WOLVES (0) 0
BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 (Francis) 19,926
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daley, Brazier, McAlle, Patching, Carr (Eves), Richards, Rafferty, Kelly.
 Birmingham: Montgomery; Calderwood, Pendrey, Towers, Gallagher, Howard, Page, Francis, Bertschin, Hibbitt, Fox (Emmanuel).

SECOND DIVISION

BOLTON (1) 2 (Allardyce, Whatmore)
ORIENT (0) 0 17,957
 Bolton: McDonagh; Jones (P), Dunne, Greaves, Walsh, Allardyce, Morgan, Whatmore, Gowing (Thompson), Reid, Worthington.
 Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Payne (Banjo), Hoadley, Roeder, Godfrey, Gray, Mayo, Kitchen, Clarke.

BRIGHTON (0) 2 (Horton, O'Sullivan)
NOTTS CO (1) 1 (Vinter) 20,315
 Brighton: Steele; Cattlin (Potts), Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrenson, Townner, Ward, Maybank, Clark, O'Sullivan.
 Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Benjamin, Chapman, Birchenall (Sims), Carter, McVay, Bradd, Hunt, Vinter.

BURNLEY (1) 2 (Ingham, Noble)
TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Taylor) 16,790
 Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Rodaway, Cochran, Ingham, Fletcher, Kindon, Smith.
 Tottenham: Daines; Armstrong, Holmes, Huddle, McAllister, Perryman, Pratt, McNab, Jones, Lee, Taylor.

C. PALACE 0
OLDHAM 0 11,272
 Palace: Burridge; Hinshelwood (P), Sansom, Fenwick (Silkman), Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Chatterton, Walsh, Swindlehurst, Harkouk.
 Oldham: Platt; Hoolickin, Wood, Bell, Holt, Hurst, Valentine, Taylor, Young, Chapman, Gardner.

HULL (0) 1 (Roberts)
LUTON (0) 1 (West) 4,054
 Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, Daniel, Bremner, Croft, Roberts, Haigh, Lord, Warboys, Hawley, Stewart.
 Luton: Knight; Jones, Carr, Hill, McNichol, Fletcher (P), Stein, West, Fletcher (R), Fuccillo, Boersma.

MANSFIELD (0) 0
CHARLTON (1) 3 (Gritt, Shipperley, Robinson) 6,591
 Mansfield: Arnold; Bird, Foster (B), Foster (C), Saxby, Wood, Miller, Sharkey (Austin), Syrett, Hodgson, Phillips.
 Charlton: Wood; Berry, Warman, Tydeman, Shipperley, Dugdale, Powell, Gritt, Flanagan, Robinson, Peacock.

MILLWALL (0) 1 (Chambers pen.)
BRISTOL R (2) 3 (Randall, White, Gould pen.) 3,322
 Millwall: Johns; Donaldson, Moore, Mehmet, Kitchener, Hazell, Lee, Allen, Seaman, Pearson, Walker (Chambers).
 Bristol R: Thomas; Aitken, Bater, Day, Taylor, Prince, Gould, Pulis, Randall, White, Williams (Barry).

SHEFF. UTD 0
BLACKPOOL 0 12,804
 Sheff. U: Brown; Cutbush, Calvert, Speight, Franks, Flynn, Woodward, Campbell (Guy), Edwards, Hamson, Stainrod.
 Blackpool: Hesford; Gardner, Milligan, Chandler, Suddaby, Wilson, Ainscow, Tong, Walsh (Groves), Hatton, Waldron.

SOUTHAMPTON (3) 5 (Funnell, MacDougall, Holmes, Boyer 2)
BLACKBURN (0) 0 21,087
 Southampton: Wells; Andruszewski, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Pickering, Ball, Boyer, MacDougall, Holmes, Funnell.
 Blackburn: Butcher; Bird, Bailey, Metcalfe, Keeley (Curtis), Waddington, Round, Taylor, Lewis, Parkes, Wagstaffe.

STOKE (2) 2 (Waddington, O'Callaghan)
CARDIFF (0) 0 14,804
 Stoke: Jones; Marsh, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Dodd, Waddington, Richardson, O'Callaghan, Busby, Crooks.
 Cardiff: Healey; Thomas, Pethard, Campbell (Byrne), Pontin, Larmour, Grapes, Dwyer, Williams, Went, Giles.

SUNDERLAND (1) 2 (Docherty, Lee)
FULHAM (0) 2 (Margerrison, Mitchell) 11,951
 Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Bolton, Kerr, Clarke, Ashurst, Armstrong, Rowell, Lee, Docherty, Gilbert.
 Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Bullivant, Gale, Money, Greenaway, Mahoney, Mitchell, Evanson, Margerrison.

THIRD DIVISION

BRADFORD C (0) 1 (Hutchins) 4,462
PORTSMOUTH (0) 0
 Bradford C: Downsbrough; Podd, Spark, Dolan, Baines, Middleton, Watson, Johnson (Fretwell), McNiven, Wright, Hutchins.
 Portsmouth: Middleton; Wilson, Taylor, Ellis, Foster, Denyer, Pullar, Lathan, Garwood, Piper (S), McCaffrey.

CAMBRIDGE (1) 2 (Biley pen., Watson)
WALSALL (0) 1 (Birch) 5,849
 Cambridge: Webster; Howard, Buckley, Stringer, Fallon, Watson, Streete, Spriggs, Morgan, Finney, Biley.
 Walsall: Kearns; Macken, Caswell, Wood, Serella, Harrison, Dennehy, Evans, Austin, Buckley, Birch.

CARLISLE (0) 0
BURY (0) 3 (Rowland 2, Farrell) 4,405
 Carlisle: Swinburne; McCartney, Collins, McDonald, Sawyers, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Tait, Kemp, Hamilton (McLean).
 Bury: Forrest; Kennedy, Thomsom, Hatton, Tucker, Keenan, Stanton, Suddick (McIlraith), Rowland, Robins, Farrell.

CHESTER (2) 2 (Mellor, Phillips)
EXETER (0) 1 (Holman) 1,996
 Chester: Lloyd; Nickeas, Raynor, Jeffries, Storton, Oakes, Delgado, Livermore, Howat, Mellor, Phillips.
 Exeter: Key; Templeman, Hore, Delve, Giles, Hodge (Jennings), Kellow, Randall, Bowker, Holman, Hatch.

SOLSHESHTER (0) 1 (Leslie)
SHREWSBURY (1) 2 (Loughane, Biggins) 2,910
 Colchester: Walker; Cook, Wignall, Leslie, Packer, Williams, Foley, Gough, Bunkell, Allinson, Evanson (Dyer).
 Shrewsbury: Mulhearn; King, Bowers, Turner, Keay, Hayes, Irvine, Maguire, Atkins, Biggins (Griffin), Loughane.

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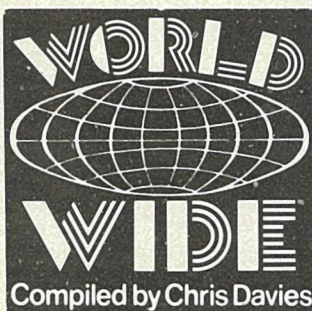
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DRUG BAN

● In the Central American republic of El Salvador, five players have been banned for six months following dope tests taken after a League match between Alianza and Once Municipal last December. The five were found to have used "illegal stimulants" but the authorities have spent several months scratching their heads before deciding on a suitable punishment. The problem is that sport regulations in El Salvador say nothing about drug offences...

● A whole string of ex-stars are going to Argentina to help cover the World Cup for T.V., according to accreditations. Best known amongst them are: Lev Yashin (Russia), Bobby Moore and Bobby Charlton (England), Raymond Kopa and Just Fontaine (France), Luigi Riva (Italy), Günter Netzer, Uwe Seeler and Jürgen Grabowski (W. Germany), Florian Albert (Hungary), Perfumo (Argentina), and Gerson, Pele, Mauro and Bellini (Brazil).



SOUTH AMERICAN Champions Boca Juniors (see lead story) made a good start to their Copa de Oro campaign by beating fellow Argentinians Racing 2-0. True to form, the match ended in a massive brawl between players and substitutes of both sides.

BRUGES BOSS LATE

FC BRUGES boss Ernst Happel missed the plane to Turin for the Semi-Final tie against Juventus. He'd left his passport at home... the team coach turned back... but Happel had also forgotten his door key!

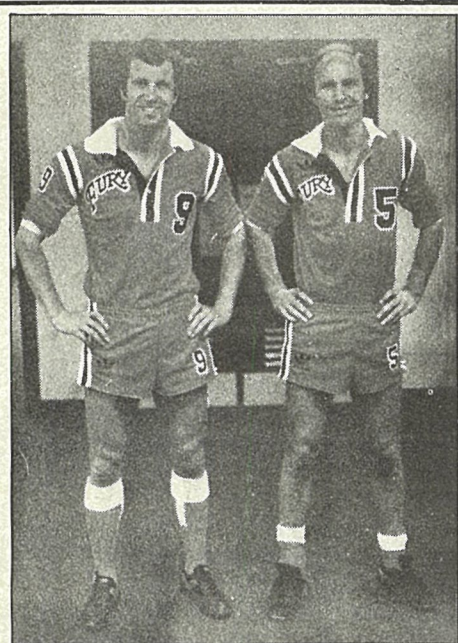
So, the Bruges manager went off in search of his wife, which meant he missed the team's plane to Italy. So he caught the next plane and made it

to Turin in time to prepare his team for the match.

● Bruges stars Eddy Krieger and Paul Courant are afraid of flying and travel to European ties by train, where possible. They journeyed to Turin this way to play against Juventus and will probably come to Wembley for the European Cup Final by train/ferry.

● The biggest crowd in the 1978 World Cup qualifying campaign was for the Brazil-Colombia game (132,764), while the lowest was for Luxembourg v Finland (1,600).

WORLD CUP spectators passing in and out of the main entrance at the River Plate Stadium will pass under a giant football, ten metres in diameter, suspended fifty metres above ground.



FASHION-CONSCIOUS FURY

THE PHILADELPHIA FURY (latest signing, Alan Ball) may not be the hottest new team to join the North American Soccer League this year, but they're sure to be among the smartest.

Like the N.A.S.L. Champs, the Cosmos, the Fury are having a top fashion designer do the team's strip. Ralph Lauren has designed the Cosmos strip and Cesarani the Fury's. He's aiming for "a touch of show business with a lot of sex appeal."

Fury's shirt and shorts are sleeker and tighter-fitting. The shirt has a ribbed, three-button collar and "capped" sleeves. It is designed to stay inside the shorts.

Cesarani, who says he knows nothing about the game, wanted to put a back pocket in the shorts. He eliminated it when Fury captain Peter Osgood pointed out the only thing likely to be found in the pocket would be an opponent's hand giving the Fury guy a sly tug.

Frank Barsalona, president of the club, said: "I believe if an athlete looks good, he plays good."

The Fury will need more than that to compete in an increasingly tough League.

● Above: Fury stars Peter Osgood and John Dempsey.

World Club Cup is a farce

BORUSSIA Mönchengladbach, outclassed by Liverpool in the European Cup this season (and last) are poised to become "the best team in the world".

Presumably, that's the tag the winners of the World Club Championship can boast.

Personally, I think the Intercontinental competition is a farce.

Believe it or not, the current Cup is virtually spread over three seasons. Yes, three seasons. Borussia qualified for the tournament when Liverpool declined to accept because of their already hectic schedule.

This made an instant mockery of the whole thing — if the best team in Europe doesn't enter, then all credibility is lost.

The first-leg of last year's World Club Cup was played a few weeks ago and BMG did well to draw 2-2 with Boca Juniors in Argentina. Thankfully, there were no nasty incidents as there have been in the past (Celtic/Racing, etc. ...).

The return leg will be played in August, just before the start of next season, which means the competition is almost a three-season affair!

At least Boca are Champions of South America, but the Intercontinental Cup is taken far more seriously over there than in Europe.

I'd like to see the competition properly organised. The only way to bring European and South American clubs closer, and solve the well-known problems, is for them to play each other.

I'm quite sure Liverpool won't play in the next World Club play-off if (when?) they beat Bruges at

Wembley next Wednesday.

At the moment, the competition proves nothing and only makes money for the clubs concerned.

How could Borussia claim to be the World Club Champions when they're not even the best in Europe? And if Boca win, could they lay a similar claim? If they'd have beaten Liverpool — yes, but as they haven't — no.

Incidentally, while taking nothing away from Liverpool, Borussia disappointed me at Anfield. I wonder... just wonder... if the era of West German soccer domination is coming to an end? They don't have any clubs in the other two Euro Finals, and their national side has not impressed recently.



● Picture shows Boca's Mas-trangelo (he sounds tough, but has never been booked in his career!) scoring against Borussia in Buenos Aires.

GROUND CLOSED

IN SPAIN, First Division tail-enders Cadiz have had their ground closed following incidents during their home game against Salamanca. In the 11th minute the crowd thought referee Acebal Pezon (there's a name for you!) should have awarded the home side a penalty, and proceeded to pelt him with everything they could lay their hands on during the rest of the game, including beer bottles filled

with sand which must have been brought into the ground with the intention of violent use.

The referee finally abandoned the game in the 85th minute and was taken along with a linesman to a clinic for medical treatment. Incidentally, Cadiz's 0-1 defeat means they're certain to be relegated and therefore drop into the Second Division.

JUSTICE?

DIETER Bast of VfL Bochum was suspended by the West German F.A. after being sent-off against Schalke 04. Bast wanted to use T.V. film as his "witness", but the authorities refused.

A few days later Bast's team-mate was found guilty of attacking the referee in the same game, although he wasn't sent-off at the time.

The "witness" of the F.A. was... the television film.

BRIBE SCANDAL IN GREECE

NEWLY-PROMOTED Greek First Division club Verea held a comfortable place in mid-table until after their recent match with Aigaleo in Athens which they lost 2-0. Two Aigaleo players reported to their manager, who passed the information on to the F.A. that an official of Verea had offered them 300,000 Drachma (about £5,000) to throw the game. The F.A. have now ordered ten points to be deducted from the total Verea had, which puts them bottom of the table.

● While the E.E.C. recently recommended two Common Market players per club throughout the E.E.C. in accordance with the Treaty of Rome's "right to work anywhere", the Italian Players' Union have voted for one foreigner per club.

BELGIUM played a friendly against Austria recently in Charleroi, which is in the French-speaking part of the country. As there was only one French-speaking player selected (Dardenne) and he was substituted at half-time. This meant that Belgium fielded an entire Flemish-speaking side for the last 45 minutes and, much to the delight of the Flemish people in this bi-lingual country, Geurts scored the winner.

BELGIAN club Beerschot have announced Poland goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski has signed a three-year contract with them and will join his new team after the World Cup Finals.

PAUL BREITNER is leaving Eintracht Braunschweig to return to Bayern Munich. He's even taking a drop in salary, from £100,000 per year to £85,000.

● The recent home defeat of Dukla Prague, 1-2 v Spartak Trnava, was their first reverse at home for 28 months.

REAL MADRID clinched the Spanish League title with three weeks to spare by beating tail-enders Cadiz 2-0. Real's 18th title win is a personal triumph for "caretaker" manager Luis Molowny, who took control when Miljan Miljanic resigned last September.

Last term Real finished a miserable eighth in the League and failed to qualify for any of the European competitions, but under Molowny they've played brilliant attacking football, averaging over two goals per game, and have once again qualified for the European Cup.

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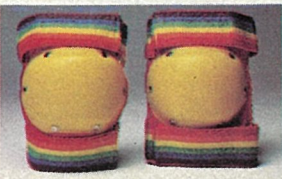
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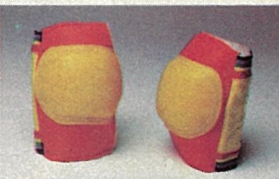
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EUROPEAN CUP FINAL LIVERPOOL v BRUGES— AGAIN!

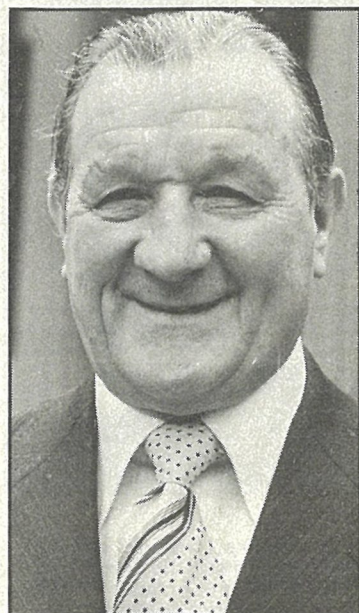


FOR the second time in three seasons Liverpool and FC Bruges meet in a European Final. In 1976, the pair met in the U.E.F.A. Cup Final. During the first-leg at Anfield, Bruges actually led 2-0 at one stage, but Liverpool powered their way back winning 3-2. Their 1-1 draw in Bruges ensured that Liverpool added to their already impressive collection of trophies. This season's clash promises to be every bit as exciting and both sides had impressive Semi-Final triumphs. The Anfield Reds were almost embarrassingly superior to the crack (?) Germans Borussia Monchengladbach and won even more easily than the 3-0 scoreline suggested. On the left, we see the ageless Tommy Smith abandoning his defensive duties to shoot narrowly wide. Below, is Ray Kennedy's opener, a fine header from Kenny Dalglish's inch-perfect centre. Bruges can boast the scalp of Italy's Juventus and beat them in extra-time to win 2-1 on aggregate. Above we see Bruges's Julien Cools tackling a Juventus player during their second-leg tie. And so to Wembley. Liverpool to win? It's difficult to bet against them, but it won't be the formality some people think.



'ALL OUR PLAYERS CAN SCORE GOALS'

Liverpool manager Bob Paisley



THE Liverpool-Bruges European Cup Final promises to be an epic confrontation. And nobody knows better than Bob Paisley, the deep-thinking Anfield manager, the sort of game to expect as the Merseysiders prepare to step into soccer history by becoming the first British side to win the trophy twice.

"The fact one match will decide the issue, instead of the two-legged affairs of earlier rounds, makes this a different game to those in the Semi-Finals," says the Liverpool boss. "And it must be prepared for in an entirely different way."

"We play more carefully on an away ground, then as against Borussia Monchengladbach, go all out at home. But in the Final, with both teams fully aware of the importance of this one match, neither one is going to approach it in a carefree manner."

"Of course, we'll be as positive as we can without throwing caution to the winds — and the same will apply to Bruges. Like Borussia, Bruges are a free-moving side who will attack with as many players as possible when the circumstances are right, but who are also disciplined."

"We have developed the technique of moving around and setting up opponents for our moves, but we accept the fact it will be a hard match against Bruges. And although it is taking place in this country, it's only a short flight from Brussels to London and the Bruges supporters are demanding their full share of tickets, so they will have good backing from their fans."

Always ready to treat the opposition with respect, manager Paisley is satisfied with the mood of his own players and also happy with their performance against Borussia, which took Liverpool into the Final.

"We gave a first-class display



EUROPEAN CUP

against the Germans, and our players are in good spirits after it. It was such a team-effort by Liverpool I wouldn't attempt to pick out anyone for special mention.

"Unfortunately, David Johnson has had to have an operation on the knee ligament injury sustained against Leicester, and he will not be in contention for a place in the Final. And it's injuries of this kind that always prey on a manager's mind when important games are on the agenda."

"At Liverpool, we try to guard against them as much as possible — and one of the ways we do this is to not expect our forwards to get involved in heavy tackles with defenders that could cause injury. Every Liverpool player will harass or challenge for a ball, but in the case of forwards I don't want them to be crocked in making a tackle. It is a high price to pay."

"Looking ahead to the Final, I don't anticipate that our heads will go down if they score first. This is what happened to Borussia when we took an early lead, and we never allowed them to recover. And all our players can score goals, so we are capable of striking from anywhere."

'More Often'

"And we usually stick the ball in the net more often against Continental sides than we do in our League games. Not that I am going to forecast a scoreline against Bruges, because there is no way of knowing how many goals will be scored in a European Cup Final."

"But playing against the Continentals brings out the best in a player like Terry McDermott, and there is an individualist such as Steve Heighway who can cause problems in any defence."

One of Liverpool's assets is the strength of the playing pool at Anfield. Since Liverpool made its successful European Cup Final bid last year in Rome, the pool has been depleted by the departure of Kevin Keegan to Hamburg, but augmented by Bob Paisley's purchase of Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness.

"Kenny is a great player, much stronger than people would judge from his build," says the Anfield chief. "And Graeme is a fine distributor and forceful. And in the team, when substitutions are made, they are accepted as part of the modern game."

"With us, the atmosphere is right, and most of all, the confidence is there. Not too much — but enough to ensure that we won't be easy to beat against Bruges."

EVER since that magical, glorious night at Anfield when we Liverpool Reds knocked our "old enemies" Borussia Monchengladbach out of the Semi-Finals of the European Cup, I've found it difficult to think of anything else other than our Wembley Final date with F.C. Bruges, another side we've met before.

Retaining our grip on the massive European Cup that we won in Rome last year by defeating those self-same West German Champions has been the main, dream-like aim of everyone at Liverpool.

To become the only British side to hold the trophy twice — and in successive seasons — will testify to the outstanding quality of our team. And I emphasise "team", for our success is entirely due to everyone in the squad channelling all his skills and effort into playing with, and for, his mates.

The night of our Semi-Final second-leg against Borussia, on April 12th, brought back memories of a similar occasion in the 1976-77 competition, when French Champions St-Etienne came to Anfield for the

Tommy Lawrence, haunted me.

Tommy was in goal when Liverpool, against Inter Milan in the European Cup Semi-Final in 1965, went to Milan for the second-leg armed with a 3-1 win at Anfield, looking a good bet to enter their first-ever Final in the competition.

They didn't — and many die-hard Liverpool supporters still attribute the disaster to a blunder by the unfortunate Tommy. Apparently, while bouncing the ball, he allowed an Italian to come up behind him and kick it into the net for one of the Italians' three goals.

As Liverpool failed to score, Inter went through on a 4-3 aggregate.

Although Bonhof's free-kick was the hardest I've ever faced in my life, I felt confident of saving it as it came round our defensive wall. However, when the ball was about three yards in front of me it suddenly flew up, in a Concorde-like climb, hit me on the shoulder and went into the net.

Sick as a parrot? I felt like an off-colour ostrich, wanting to hide his head in the sand!

The memory of my mistake ling-

'Out for a

second-leg of the Quarter-Finals, having beaten us 1-0 on their ground in the first-leg.

As things turned out, the Borussia tie contained less drama, for the French equalised an early goal by Kevin Keegan, which meant we needed to score two more at Anfield in order to go through to the Semi-Final. Ray Kennedy, an even better player now than then, got the first, and Dave Fairclough did his "super-sub" act by getting the second and so giving us a win by 3-2 on aggregate.

But I began against the Germans with a terrible, nagging thought in the back of my mind concerning the free-kick I failed to save in the dying minutes in Dusseldorf, and which put Borussia back in the lead after our sub, Dave Johnson, had scored with a superb, injury-defying header.

I dreaded being blamed for Liverpool not reaching the Final in the event of a defeat or draw at Anfield!

A precedent set by the previous holder of our number one shirt,

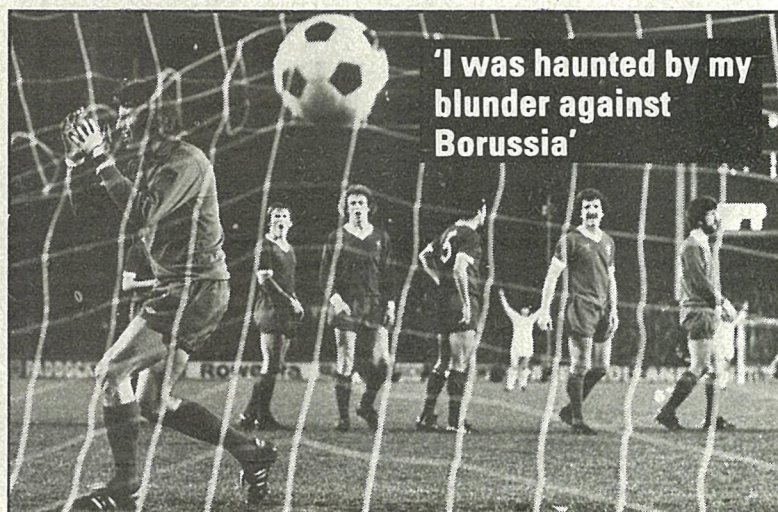
ered on until Ray Kennedy, living up to his nickname of "Razor", opened our account in the return-leg with one of the finest worked goals ever seen at Anfield.

From then on we dominated, Kenny Dalglish adding a second goal with a slickly-taken, slow but deadly accurate shot to the side of the goalmouth, and Jimmy Case giving the Germans no hope with a cracking, rising shot on the run.

The last ten minutes or so were a mere formality, with the Germans playing dispiritedly, even the world-class number five, Bonhof.

In my opinion, they are not as strong as they were in last season's Final, missing the injured Allan Simonsen, who scored their goal in Rome, and Stielke, the superb mid-field man sold to Real Madrid. They are still a fine side, though.

Their manager, Udo Lattek, admitted afterwards his team have a psychological "thing" about playing Liverpool, having previously lost against us in two Finals — in the U.E.F.A. Cup in 1973 and last year in



'I was haunted by my blunder against Borussia'

'Less than half our fans will be at Wembley'



Rome.

A bad record against a side they are about to meet invariably puts a team in the wrong frame of mind and saps their confidence.

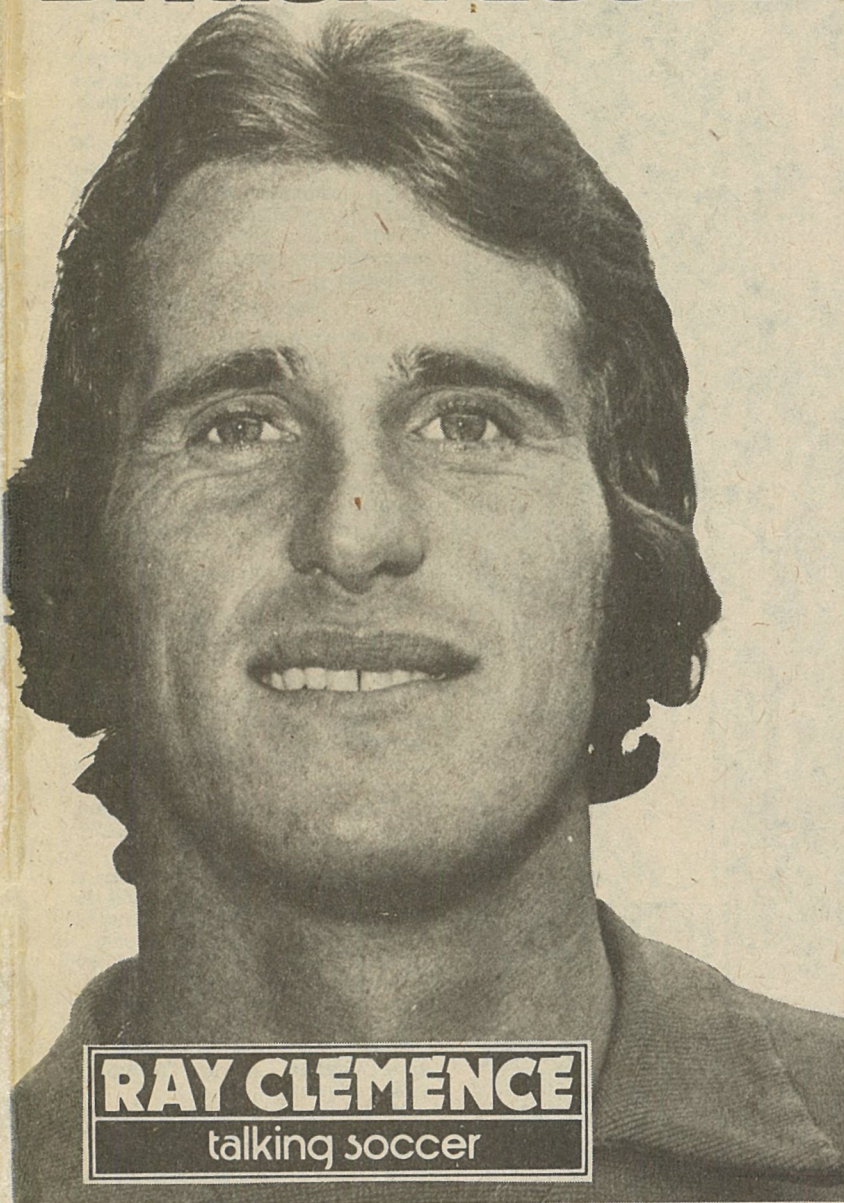
Everton, our Merseyside rivals, have been above us in the League for almost the entire season, and yet only drew at Anfield and lost against us at Goodison Park, and I'm sure the Blues felt apprehensive

on both occasions because they hadn't beaten us for around seven years.

Arsenal had a jinx on us a few seasons ago at Anfield, winning twice and drawing once.

F.C. Bruges may have wished for different opponents than Liverpool, especially as Wembley is, as our manager Bob Paisley says, "like a second home for us."

British record'



RAY CLEMENCE

talking soccer

Regular readers will know I expected the Italian side Juventus to dispose of the Belgian Champions, but I'm delighted to be proved wrong. Bruges play attractive, attacking football, whereas the Italians' defensive, clinical style would present a boring spectacle for everyone except unemotional students of the game.

From our experience of the Belgians, and their impressive 2-1 aggregate win in the Semis, we'll be treating them very seriously. They have many excellent players who possess great speed and control.

We've not forgotten their two-nil lead at half-time at Anfield in the first-leg of the 1976 U.E.F.A. Cup Final.

We needed to pull out all the stops to win 3-2 and draw 1-1 in Belgium to take the trophy.

Like us, Bruges have a large core of supporters who'll follow them anywhere, and we fully expect them to take up the club's entire allocation of 23,000 tickets. Liverpool have been given the same number, which means less than half of our fans will be at Wembley on the big day.

Most of the remaining 50,000 will no doubt be rooting for Liverpool, so we'll have the double-advantage of superior support and playing at "home".

Our critics have referred to our failure to win at Wembley on our last three outings — in the 1977 F.A. Cup, which we lost to Manchester United, and our draws in the Charity Shield against them and Nottingham Forest in the League Cup Final.

I firmly believe this time out we'll get the goals that will secure our second successive win over Bruges and a bigger entry in the record books.

I go along with the TV commentator who prophesied we could well emulate the feat of Ajax, Real Mad-

rid and Bayern Munich and go on to notch up a hat-trick of European Cup wins.

There's another big event scheduled to take place at Wembley five days before we stride out into the stadium — the F.A. Cup Final between Arsenal and Ipswich Town — and far from stealing our thunder it's proving to be an advantage because we can stay out of the limelight and busy ourselves preparing ourselves mentally and physically.

Of course, we're involved in some commercial activities, but it's the media who can put us under pressure.

The F.A. Cup Final has all the hallmarks of being a very interesting, thrilling occasion. On the one hand there is Arsenal, a club with a marvellous tradition but which hasn't collected a trophy in recent years, and Ipswich, a side that has only won one major trophy, the League Championship under Sir Alf Ramsey (except he hadn't been knighted then), in 1962.

Farthest they've ever been in the F.A. Cup competition was the Semi-Final in 1975.

I'm not making any predictions. I've tipped against Ipswich all the way through and I don't want to favour them by picking Arsenal for the Cup.

I'll be watching on TV. And may the best team win — unlike last year!

Okay, you Manchester fans, don't reach for pen and paper, I was only joking.

Meet me again next week when I'll be talking about the start of the British Championship.

Ray Clemence

LIVERPOOL'S RECORD IN EUROPEAN CUP

1964-65: EUROPEAN CUP

Aug. 17, 1964	Reykjavik.....	a	5	0	Hunt 2, Wallace 2, Chisnall.
Sept. 14, 1964	Reykjavik.....	h	6	1	St. John 2, Byrne, Stevenson, Hunt, Graham.
Nov. 25, 1964	Anderlecht.....	h	3	0	Yeats, Hunt, St. John.
Dec. 16, 1964	Anderlecht.....	a	1	0	Hunt.
Feb. 10, 1965	Cologne.....	a	0	0	
Mar. 17, 1965	Cologne.....	h	0	0	
Mar. 24, 1965	Cologne (in Rotterdam).....	2	2*		Hunt, St. John.
May 4, 1965	Inter Milan (Semi-Final).....	h	3	1	Callaghan, Hunt, St. John.
May 12, 1965	Inter Milan (Semi-Final).....	a	0	3	

1966-67: EUROPEAN CUP

Sept. 18, 1966	Petrolul.....	h	2	0	Callaghan, St. John.
Oct. 12, 1966	Petrolul.....	a	1	3	Hunt.
Oct. 19, 1966	Petrolul (in Brussels).....	a	2	0	St. John, Thompson.
Dec. 7, 1966	Ajax.....	a	1	5	Lawler.
Dec. 14, 1966	Ajax.....	h	2	2	Hunt 2.

1973-74: EUROPEAN CUP

Sept. 19, 1973	Jeunesse d'Esch.....	a	1	1	Hall.
Oct. 3, 1973	Jeunesse d'Esch.....	h	2	0	Toshack, Mond (O.G.)
Oct. 24, 1973	Red Star Belgrade.....	a	1	2	Lawler.
Nov. 6, 1973	Red Star Belgrade.....	h	1	2	Lawler.

1976-77: EUROPEAN CUP

Sept. 14, 1976	Crusaders.....	h	2	0	Toshack, Neal (pen.)
Sept. 28, 1976	Crusaders.....	a	5	0	Keegan, Johnson (2), McDermott, Heighway.
Oct. 20, 1976	Trabzonspor.....	a	0	1	
Nov. 3, 1976	Trabzonspor.....	h	3	0	Heighway, Johnson, Keegan.
Mar. 2, 1977	St. Etienne.....	a	0	1	
Mar. 16, 1977	St. Etienne.....	h	3	1	Keegan, Kennedy, Fairclough
Apr. 6, 1977	F.C. Zurich (Semi-Final).....	a	3	1	Neal (2-1 pen.), Heighway
Apr. 20, 1977	F.C. Zurich (Semi-Final).....	h	3	0	Case 2, Keegan.
May 25, 1977	B Monchengladbach (Final) in Rome.....	3	1		McDermott, Smith, Neal (pen.)

1977-78: EUROPEAN CUP

Oct. 19, 1977	D Dresden.....	h	5	1	Hanson, Case 2, Neal (pen), Kennedy.
Nov. 2, 1977	D Dresden.....	a	1	2	Heighway.
Mar. 1, 1978	Benfica.....	a	2	1	Case, Hughes.
Mar. 15, 1978	Benfica.....	h	4	1	Callaghan, Dalglish, McDermott, Neal.
Mar. 29, 1978	B Monchengladbach (Semi-Final).....	a	1	2	Johnson.
Apr. 12, 1978	B Monchengladbach (Semi-Final).....	h	3	0	Kennedy, Dalglish, Case.
May 10, 1978	Bruges (Final) Wembley.....				* Won on toss of disc.

BRUGES HAVE LEARNED FROM THEIR MISTAKES

A preview from our correspondent in Belgium, DANNY GEERTS

THE European Cup Final brings together two of the most colourful teams in Europe and both clubs have eliminated some outstanding teams on the way to Wembley.

FC Bruges are by far the most successful club in Belgium in recent years. The way they have achieved their success is easy to explain, but difficult to put into practice.

The Belgians play their own brand of Total Football, similar to the Dutch 1974 World Cup side. All players form one strong unit where everyone plays for each other, with a lot of one-two combinations.

Liverpool are no strangers to Bruges. Everyone here remembers those marvellous 30 minutes at Anfield in the 1976 U.E.F.A. Cup Final when Bruges led 2-0. Even The Kop was stunned!

Bruges learned from that Final — when leading 2-0, they should have been more professional and less adventurous. They won't make the same mistakes again and let Liverpool come back as they did to win 3-2.

Everyone in Bruges — and Belgium — rates Liverpool as THE team in Europe. Bruges obviously start the Final as underdogs and this has taken pressure off them.

All of the Bruges' players are aware of the stiff task that faces them. René Vandereycken says: "Playing at Wembley will be fantastic."

"We have seen many Cup Finals there on television and I've always been impressed by the atmosphere."

"When I consider I, with FC Bruges, will be playing there, well."

"Of course, it will be difficult to beat Liverpool. But who says we don't have a chance? We'll give everything we can, so don't underestimate us!"

Short trip

More than 20,000 Bruges fans are expected to make the short trip across the English Channel to Wembley.

The Bruges "Kop" is called the Blauwzwarten — the blue and blacks — and these supporters have even presented their team with a blue and black Union Jack!

Bruges' manager Ernst Happel says: "I agree with Vandereycken that playing at Wembley is a dream come true."

"I remember from my days as a player that coming on to the famous Wembley turf is an unforgettable experience."

"I hope Lambert is fit to play. His presence means a lot to us psychologically and his goal-scoring ability may prove even more important."

"Yes, we learned a lot from our two U.E.F.A. Cup Final games with Liverpool."

My own prediction is it will be a very close Final. Liverpool will do most of the attacking while Bruges will be dangerous on the break.

If the Bruges defence can sustain 'The Reds' early pressure, then they will be more confident to express themselves.

Bruges are used to playing on wide pitches, so the Wembley space will suit them.

My forecast is a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes. But Liverpool's 12th man (the crowd) will be celebrating their team's second successive European Cup triumph.



Alfons Bastjns and Ray Kennedy in action at Anfield in the first-leg of the 1976 U.E.F.A. Cup Final.

**EUROPEAN
CUP**

We're there! Rene Vandereycken celebrates.

Goalkeeper Birger Jensen.

Team-boss Ernst Happel.

Pen-pictures

GOALKEEPERS

BIRGER JENSEN. Twenty-six-year-old Danish international signed from KB Copenhagen. Spectacular, but safe.

LEENDERT BARTH. Reserve 'keeper, 26, born in Holland and is a youth international. Lacks confidence at the moment.

DEFENDERS

ALFONS BASTIJNS. Team captain and an attacking right-back. Scored Bruges's first goal against Juventus in the Semi-Final second-leg. Aged 29.

EDDY KREIGER. Austrian international and an excellent sweeper. Now 31, he is a free-kick specialist. His temper has earned him quite a few yellow cards for dissent.

GEORGES LEEKENS. Tough-tackling defender aged 28. Also likes to go forward. Is Bruges's current penalty-taker.

JOS VOLDERS. Twenty-nine-year-old former Anderlecht left-back.

Very efficient.

GINO MAES. One for the future. Aged 21, a very fast full-back.

MIDFIELDERS

JULIEN COOLS. Footballer of the Year in 1977. Known as the Marathon Runner because of his energy, Cools is 29 and one of the best players in Belgium.

RENE VANDEREYCKEN. The hard-man in midfield. Aged 24, he is having his best-ever season and possesses a fierce shot.

DIRK SANDERS. Not a first choice, but the 22-year-old player has much promise.

DANNY DE CUBBER. Has been unlucky with injuries, but de Cubber, aged 23, is a reliable schemer with good passing ability.

PAUL COURANT. The 26-year-old Belgian international is, with Cools, the dynamo of the side. Sadly for Bruges, he will almost certainly miss

the Final due to a groin injury. A severe blow for the Belgians.

STRIKERS

RAOUL LAMBERT. The 33-year-old veteran is a folk hero in Belgium and is the country's Goal King. Has a strong shot and is commanding in the air, but due to weak muscles is injured too often now.

JAN SIMOEN. Belgian top-scorer in 1976/77, Simoen is 26 and was signed from AS Ostend. Took a while to settle down with Bruges, but has been in fine form lately.

JAN SORENSSEN. Twenty-three-year-old Danish left-winger, speedy and has a deceptive shot.

BERNHARD VERHEECKE. Small, but very fast 22-year-old forward who has proved to be a match-winner many times.

TEAM-BOSS

ERNST HAPPEL. Former Austrian international who is also the manager of the Dutch national team. Guided

Feyenoord to their European Cup victory over Celtic in 1970. A quiet, but quick-thinking manager who has had his share of controversies. He is reckoned to know everything about football.

ODD SPOT

Eddy Kreiger has received two yellow cards in the qualifying rounds... yet can still play at Wembley. On the second occasion the referee made a mistake and in fact it was Cools who should have been booked. So Kreiger is available to organise the defence against Liverpool.

HOW THEY PLAY

Bruges will probably favour a 4-4-2 formation which may sound defensive, but Bruges have attacking defenders, notably Bastijns and Volders. Bruges will play a cat-and-mouse game, hoping to catch Liverpool on the counter-attack. Bruges also favour the offside trap.

BRUGES IN EUROPE

EUROPEAN CUP

1973-74: 1st Round	FC Bruges — Floriana	8-0, 2-0
2nd Round	FC Bruges — FC Basel	2-1, 4-6
1976-77: 1st Round	FC Bruges — Steaua Bucharest	1-1, 2-1
2nd Round	Real Madrid — FC Bruges	0-0, 0-2
Quarter F.	Borussia M'gladbach — FC Bruges	2-2, 1-0

1977-78: 1st Round	Kuopio Palloseura — FC Bruges	0-4, 2-5
2nd Round	FC Bruges — Panathinaikos	2-0, 0-1
Quarter F.	FC Bruges — Atlético Madrid	2-0, 2-3
Semi-Final	Juventus — FC Bruges	1-0, 0-2

Chelsea v FC Bruges in the Cup-Winners' Cup at Stamford Bridge, March, 1971.

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

1968-69: 1st Round	West Brom — FC Bruges	2-0, 1-3*
1970-71: 1st Round	Kickers Offenbach — FC Bruges	2-1, 0-2
2nd Round	FC Bruges — FC Zurich	2-0, 2-3
Quarter F.	FC Bruges — Chelsea	2-0, 0-4

FAIRS CUP

1969-70: 1st Round	Sabadell SC — FC Bruges	2-0, 1-5
2nd Round	FC Bruges — Ujpest Dosza	5-2, 0-3*

U.E.F.A. CUP

1971-72: 1st Round	Zelevnicar — FC Bruges	3-0, 1-3
1972-73: 1st Round	FC Porto — FC Bruges	3-0, 2-3
1975-76: 1st Round	Olympique Lyon — FC Bruges	4-3, 0-3
2nd Round	Ipswich Town — FC Bruges	3-0, 0-4
3rd Round	FC Bruges — AS Roma	1-0, 1-0
Quarter F.	FC Bruges — AC Milan	2-0, 1-2
Semi-Final	Hamburger SV — FC Bruges	1-1, 0-1
Final	Liverpool — FC Bruges	3-2, 1-1



A success story for THE OTHER ALLY MacLEOD

EVERYONE knows the name of Ally MacLeod. It has reverberated from Ayr to Argentina, from Berwick to Brazil. MacLeod has certainly done well for himself. The likeable, jovial Scottish manager has a cheery grin for just about everyone. His apparent happy-go-lucky manner has won many admirers. And the fans love him.

But there is another Scot by the name of Ally MacLeod creeping into the headlines with his own particular brand of soccer wizardry. He is the stylish Hibs raider who has been turning in some superb displays for the Edinburgh side this season.

He is never going to earn medals for his work rate, but MacLeod's strong point is his instantly magical touch that can sway lost causes. He is an artist.

MacLeod, who actually prefers being called Alisdair to Ally, has matured into a fine footballer this term. He first came on the scene with St. Mirren. He had skill, but people thought he was lazy. There were times when he didn't look to be too bothered about events out on the pitch, but that special touch was still there.

He went to Southampton and a

lot of people nodded their heads when he failed to settle in at The Dell and returned to Scotland for only £30,000.

He couldn't pin down a permanent place at Easter Road and he faded somewhat from the picture which could have done with the splash of colour he brings to the game.

Now, though, he has really come good. Hibs fans insist he is one of the best players in the country and there must be a lot of defenders who agree.

"Look at that goal he scored against Dundee United at Easter Road," says shrewd manager Eddie Turnbull. "That was all about confidence, wasn't it? It's the type of goal we now expect from Hibs players."

MacLeod was running across the 18 yard line when he suddenly stopped, swivelled and thundered a low shot past the despairing Hamish McAlpine in the United goal. Hibs won that match 3-1.

The following midweek MacLeod was put on the spot when his side were awarded a penalty-kick against Rangers. There wasn't long to go and the Ibrox men were winning 1-0.

If MacLeod was in any way

nervous he hid his feelings magnificently. He placed the ball and tucked it past the diving Peter McCloy low at the left hand post.

Illustrating his consistency was the next match against Partick Thistle at Easter Road. He hadn't failed to hit the net in any of the previous seven matches and it looked as though he would lose his record.

One minute from time he collected a short free-kick just outside the box, moved forward and left Alan Rough clawing fresh air with a swerving shot.

MacLeod isn't letting the rebirth of stardom alter the size of his hats. He has been through it all before. He once scored four goals against Rangers at Ibrox while he was with St. Mirren.

In that same Saints side at centre-half was Gordon McQueen, now Britain's most expensive player after his £500,000 move from Leeds to Manchester United. It now looks as though MacLeod has decided to make up for lost time.

It could be Ally MacLeod might actually pick Ally MacLeod for his international side in the not too distant future!



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'A TROPHY EACH'

THE crazy days of summer are with us. Prepare, you soccer gluttons, to feast yourself on an incredible football spread over the next couple of months.

It all starts on Saturday, North and South of the border when Rangers and Aberdeen and Arsenal and Ipswich will battle it out at Hampden and Wembley respectively for the most glamorous prizes in British football.

I'll leave the tipping of the F.A. Cup Final to my English colleagues on SHOOT, and instead look to the fascinating Scottish confrontation between Rangers and Aberdeen, who, as I write, just happen to be neck and neck in the race for the Premier Championship, too.

The fight for the flag between these two makes it the most exciting finish to our top Division since 64-65.

And ironically that was when the last non-Old Firm club won the League Championship. It was Kilmarnock who grabbed the old First Division title in dramatic style from Hearts, beating the Edinburgh club on goal average after a last day 2-0 win at Tynecastle.

Hollywood script-writers couldn't have done a better job on that one and the way things are going from where I look, you won't get a newspaper in the gap between the big two this time.

I say "from where I look" because I am writing my SHOOT column in the sunshine of Spain where I am enjoying a six-week rest after my announcement not to play in Argentina.

As they say in all the best postcards, wife Larainne, daughters Vicki and Dawn and yours truly are having a lovely time. Weather magic, wish you were here.

All this of course, means I won't see the Cup Final, nor the dramatic run-in for the title.

But no matter how they turn out,

what a fantastic debut season Billy McNeill has had at Pittodrie. At worst he will be runner-up in the Cup and the League with a place in Europe guaranteed. That's not too bad for starters.

Rangers of course can make it a fantastic season if they lift the treble, although I'm sure no one at Ibrox will take it personally if I say I reckon they were lucky to lift the League Cup!

Although I don't want to remember too much about season 77-78, either personally or about Celtic, I still think the League Cup should be sitting in the Parkhead trophy room.

Still, that's another story! So, who is it to be? Well, I don't think either club will win both trophies.

By the time you read this I could look a right mug with the Championship well and truly settled, but I reckon if Rangers win the title then Aberdeen will get revenge at Hampden . . . or vice versa.

Both sides have players of real quality, especially Bobby Russell of Rangers who has had an absolutely incredible first season in senior football.

Aberdeen seem to have conquered their old problem of inconsistency. Dons' fans remember well the tendency they had of beating Rangers and Celtic then losing silly points to the lesser lights.

But one result in particular, in the middle of April, confirmed the seriousness of their challenge.

Motherwell, in the hunt for a U.E.F.A. Cup place, visited Pittodrie and it looked suspiciously like the kind of game the Dons might just lose.

But they thrashed Roger Hynd's men 5-0 and took a standing ovation from the 17,000 crowd.

They have players of flair, too, always a requisite of a Championship team.



So it's a trophy each . . . but you can toss a coin to see who gets what!

Next on the May menu is the European Cup Final between Liverpool and Bruges at Wembley.

I'll leave it to Ray Clemence, who has a slightly bigger say in that matter than I have, to give you the run-down . . . but let me remind you I was tipping Bruges for the trophy before the Quarter-Finals.

The odds are heavily stacked against them and I hope for the sake of my pal Kenny Dalglish that The Reds do the business, but I remember a friend of mine coming back from the European Cup Quar-

ter-Final first-leg between Bruges and Atletico Madrid raving about the performance of the Belgians. Don't under-rate them.

Onward to May 13th and the start of the British Championship. Scotland v Northern Ireland and Wales v England.

Scotland, the holders and the British Isles' sole representative in the World Cup Finals, must start favourites to retain the title.

Apart from the fact we are the best team in Britain anyway, it is important we Scots get a super send-off.

It won't be easy, though. England are already showing signs they can be a world power again and you can bet your life their players will be all out to spoil the party for Scotland.

More on the big one at Hampden in the next column, but it is important to get off to a flyer against Ireland and Wales.

The Irish are beginning to build themselves some kind of reputation in World football.

Wales will be desperate for revenge for their elimination from the World Cup on that night of nights at Anfield.

And what of Scotland? It has been suggested Ally MacLeod should drop the bulk of his team for Argentina and field reserve players. The idea is if Scotland do lose, then the morale of the players won't be damaged for the Finals.

I can't read the manager's mind, but I'll be surprised if that happens. What people who suggest that forget is even if Scotland lost with reserve players, the whole pool would be upset. We don't just have the best team in the world, we've the best POOL.

See you in two weeks!

Danny McGrain

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN TALK BY RANGERS' SKIPPER JOHN GREIG



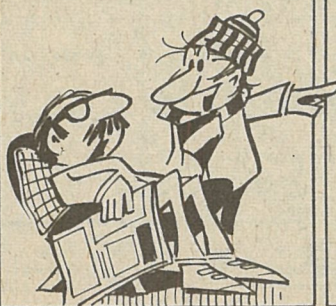
Scotland captain Bruce Rioch (dark shirt) narrowly misses during last season's British Championship game between Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Scots won 3-0.

NOBBY

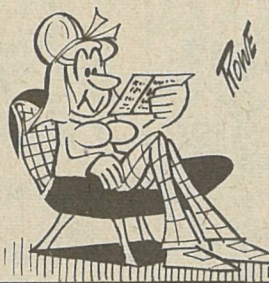
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT I'VE COME TO ASK FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S HAND!



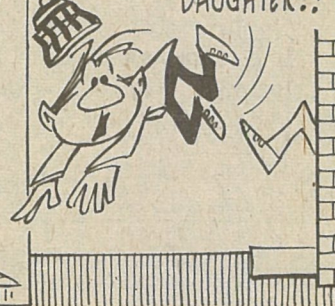
OH, YES AND WHICH ONE?



THE ONE CLUTCHING THE CUP FINAL TICKET, PLEASE?



HOW WAS I TO KNOW HE HAD MORE THAN ONE DAUGHTER?!



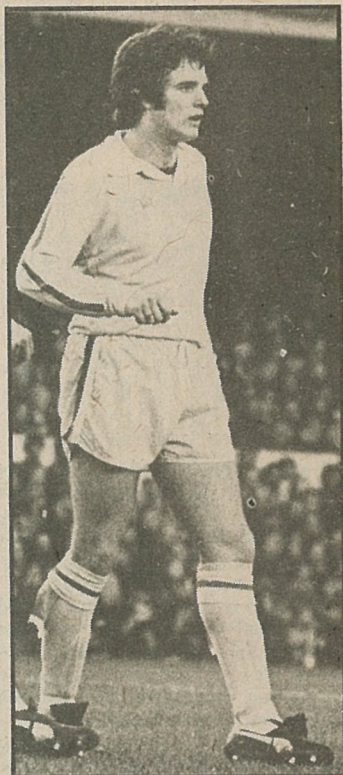
TAKE A BREAK—IT'S QUIZ TIME

The Finals of the F.A. Cup, Scottish Cup and European Cup are being played this week. See if you can answer the following questions about the three competitions.

F.A. CUP

1. The players listed appeared in the 1974 Cup Final between Newcastle and Liverpool. Iam McFaul, Frank Clark, Alex Lindsay, Alan Kennedy, Terry McDermott, Peter Cormack, Bobby Moncur, Brian Hall (below), Tommy Cassidy, Malcolm Macdonald, John Toshack, Terry Hibbitt. Which club did each of them play for?

2. Select the correct amount of times each of the following clubs has won the trophy: (a) Bolton Wanderers (two, three, four), (b) Leeds United (one, two, three), (c) Aston Villa (seven, eight, nine) and (d) Manchester City (three, four, five).



3. True or false? Ipswich Town have appeared in three Finals and lost each one.

4. You should know Manchester United beat Liverpool in last year's Final at Wembley. Can you remember how the scoring went?

5. George Mutch (Preston), Eddie Shimwell (Blackpool), Ronnie Allen (West Brom) and Danny Blanchflower (Spurs) all have something in common apart from appearing in a Final... what?



SCOTTISH CUP

6. Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish (above) appeared in four, five or six Finals during his days with his previous club Celtic?

7. The last time the Cup Final was contested by two clubs outside the Old Firm of Celtic and Rangers was when Dunfermline Athletic and Hearts met in 1967-68, 1968-69 or 1969-70?

8. Name the two losing Semi-Finalists in this season's competition?

9. Derek Parlane, Alfie Conn or Tommy Forsyth scored the winning goal for Rangers against Celtic in the 1972-73 Final?

10. Was it Andy (Aston Villa), Frankie (left, Leeds) or Terry Gray (Huddersfield) who played for Dundee United against Celtic at Hampden Park in 1973-74?

EUROPEAN CUP

11. Johnny Rep, Johan Cruyff or Johan Neeskens scored Ajax's only and winning goal in the 1973 European Cup Final against Juventus?

12. Manchester United became the first English club to win the trophy when they beat Benfica 4-1 after extra-time at Wembley. What was the score after 90 minutes?

13. Including the Liverpool v Bruges game, how many times has Wembley staged the European Cup Final?

14. Is it true that no replays have been needed in a Final?

15. How many times have the legendary Real Madrid won the trophy?

ANSWERS:

1. Newcastle United: McFaul, Clark, Kennedy, McDermott, Moncur, Cassidy, Macdonald, and Hibbitt. Liverpool: Toshack, Hall and Toshack, 2. (a) Four, (b) one, (c) seven, (d) four. 3. False — it will be their first ever Wembley Final. 4. 1-0 to United, 1-1, 2-1 to United. 5. They scored from penalties. 6. Five. 7. 1967-68. 8. Dundee United and Partick. 9. Tommy Forsyth. 10. Andy Gray, 11. Johnny Rep. 12. 1-1. 13. Three. 14. No — a replay was needed in 1973-74. 15. Six.

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS: (1) Fred. (5) Eddie. (8) Trevor. (9) Eaton. (10) Manor. (12) An. (13) Bans. (14) Scotland. (16) Up. (17) Dars. (18) Use. (19) Song. (21) Fan. (24) Swindon. (26) Exit. (28) He. (29) Towel. (31) Lou. (32) Do. (33) Pend.

DOWN: (1) Francis. (2) Let. (3) Everton. (4) Don. (6) Dens. (7) European Cup. (8) Teas. (10) Mansfield. (11) And. (13) Bar. (15) Lags. (16) Us. (18) Unduly. (20) Omit. (22) An. (23) Head. (25) When. (27) Top. (30) We.

Jumbled Name: TOM RITCHIE

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SCOTTISH CUP FINAL
Hampden Park, Saturday, May 6th



UNDERDOG DONS COULD FINISH ON TOP

SPECTACULAR SKILLS, tantalising talents and powerful precision play... that should be the order of the day when Aberdeen collide with Rangers in the Scottish Cup Final.

This is the seventh meeting of the clubs this season, with Billy McNeill's Red Army marching to four victories and Rangers claiming two wins. The Dons have won the last three meetings and are confident they can add another win to their already impressive list.

"The last time we played Rangers at Hampden was two seasons ago," says goalkeeper Bobby Clark, who will be going with Scotland to the World Cup Finals next month. "And what happened then? We won 5-1, of course!

"That was in the League Cup Semi-Final and we went on to take the trophy with a 2-1 extra-time victory over Celtic in the Final. Hampden holds no fears for us. We know what to expect.

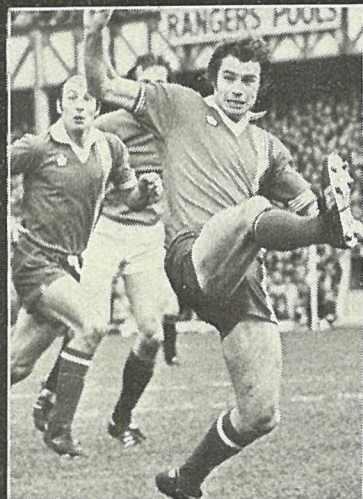
Revenge

The battles between Rangers and Aberdeen this season have been played at a hammering, pulsating pace. For instance, Rangers got ample revenge for their League Cup drubbing when they blasted The Dons 6-1 in their League Cup Quarter-Final match at Ibrox. McNeill's marauders, however, have the satisfaction of knowing they have played Jock Wallace's side three times since then... and won the lot. In the return leg of their League Cup tie they won 3-1 and followed this up with a wonderful 4-0 victory. Then they came to Ibrox and totally overwhelmed and outclassed the Glasgow side with a 3-0 victory.

Rangers will no doubt be hoping for a repeat of the form during their home League Cup match. Aberdeen were rocked that night.

The Dons were woefully weak in just about every department on that nightmare evening for them. They surrendered the ball on too many occasions and weren't quick enough to cover alarming gaps at the back. In short, they made mistakes and paid for them.

The afternoon could be a dream come true for Aberdeen's left-back Stevie Ritchie. Not that long ago he was struggling in the English Third Division with Hereford. McNeill, looking for cover in his defence, remembered him from Ritchie's days with Morton and



Aberdeen striker Ian Fleming will cause problems for Rangers.

talked to his assistant John Clark, who had, of course, played alongside Ritchie in the Cappielow side's defence.

Clark agreed with McNeill on the player's ability and Ritchie was bought for a mere £10,000.

Aberdeen have a good balance of youth and experience in their line-up. Clark, Stuart Kennedy, Willie Miller and Joe Harper have all gained international recognition this season while players such as Drew Jarvie and Ian Fleming have been scoring regularly.

Cup-tied

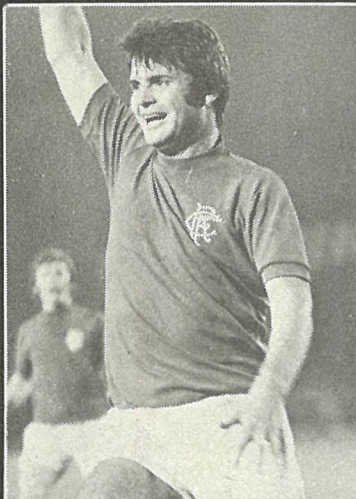
Fleming, in fact, made a first team return in the Semi-Final match against Partick in place of the Cup-tied Stevie Archibald, signed from Clyde this season after playing in earlier rounds. It was a joy night for the courageous Flemming who hit a sparkling hat-trick in his side's 4-2 win.

Jarvie, too, has been hitting the mark with superb efforts although playing more in midfield.

And what about Joe Harper? "He is a penalty box player," says McNeill. "That's where you get goals and no one is better in there than Joe. I know he always gave me trouble when I faced him!"

Rangers, used to the big occasion, haven't been entirely impressive in their Hampden games this term although it must be pointed out they have a success rate of three out of three!

In their first visit there they were



Rangers' top scorer Derek Johnstone is in great form.

only seven minutes away from a sensational League Cup Semi-Final defeat from lowly Second Division side Forfar. They were trailing 2-1 when Derek Parlane nodded in the equaliser and the plucky part-time team fell to bits in the 30 minutes extra-time period as Rangers scored another three goals.

Rangers also had to rely on extra-time to actually win the trophy when they faced old foes Celtic in the Final. After 1-1 at 90 minutes they had to wait until two minutes from the end when Gordon Smith, a startling success since his £65,000 transfer from Kilmarnock last year, headed in the winner after goalkeeper Peter Latchford had failed to clear a cross from Alex Miller.

And in the Semi-Finals of the Scottish Cup against Dundee United their fans were chanting "What a load of rubbish" until Derek Johnstone popped up with another valuable header to put them ahead around the 60 minute mark. Captain courageous John Greig made certain of victory with a second goal.

It was generally agreed, though, that had United found a bit more firepower up-front they would have been well ahead at the interval. They made and missed chances and Rangers were allowed to get back into the game. Once Johnstone struck there was never any doubt about which team was going through.

Jock Wallace has had his problems with goalkeepers Stewart

Kennedy and Peter McCloy. Both have had their brilliant games, but both, too, have had their nightmare moments.

In stark contrast, Aberdeen must be delighted with the form of veteran Bobby Clark, who rarely drops a clanger. He has looked super confident this term and this has spread around his defence.

Willie Miller has played consistently beside giant centre-half Willie Garner while Dom Sullivan and John McMaster have improved tremendously in the middle of the park. Sullivan has been willing to work and fight for the ball and he is not afraid to have a go.

He scored one of the best goals of the season in the 2-2 League draw with Celtic at Parkhead. He gathered the ball, waltzed past a couple of tackles, played a one-two with Joe Harper, moved into space to gather the quick return and with all the confidence of a good player on form simply struck an unstoppable drive high into the roof of the net.

The big match occasion could bring out the best in Sullivan. Duncan Davidson, too, will be looking forward to the game. Rangers have already felt his scoring power in a vital Cup match.

Substitute

Four years ago they held Aberdeen to a 2-2 draw at Pittodrie and took the game to a replay at Ibrox. The game went to extra-time when the score stood at 1-1 and it was there that Davidson, a substitute, appeared with the knock out blow.

Stewart Kennedy fumbled the ball on to the crossbar and could only look on in horror as Davidson rushed in to prod the ball over the line for the goal that proved to be the winner.

Rangers and Aberdeen have both changed their line-ups a fair bit since that evening. One youngster who has had a great impression on the Ibrox side is midfielder Bobby Russell, in his first season.

Russell unfortunately missed the League Cup Final through illness, but he is likely to be a key man against Aberdeen. He adds poise to the Ibrox midfield while Alex MacDonald supplies most of the power and industry.

World Cup men Sandy Jardine and Tom Forsyth will add their usual reliability and strength as will John Greig, playing as well as ever. However, centre-half Colin Jackson never appears too comfortable when Joe Harper is around and Rangers could be open to raids down the middle.

Who is going to win? SHOOT said right at the start of the season that Billy McNeill had a side that could do well in the Cup and we see no reason to change that thinking now they have reached Hampden.

They have some brilliant players and if they settle right from the kick-off they could have Rangers reeling. Hampden, the stage for some marvellous soccer moments in the past, could be in for another action-packed performance, but once the dust settles the trophy could be bedecked in red and white and heading for Pittodrie.

Rangers' players and fans will obviously disagree!



SCOTTISH CUP FINAL



RANGERS GO FOR CUP DOUBLE

HAVING already won the Scottish League Cup a few weeks ago, Rangers now face Aberdeen in the Scottish Cup Final at Hampden Park. There is no doubt they are the best two teams in Scotland and the stage is set for one of the most keenly contested Finals in years. Above we see Davie Cooper's opening goal in the League Cup against their traditional rivals Celtic. Yet Aberdeen have plenty of fire-power, too. Ian Fleming scored a hat-trick in the Semi-Final against Partick Thistle, while Joe Harper (right) is always likely to pop one in. Of course, Aberdeen boss Billy McNeill knows a few things about winning Cups from his Celtic days and nothing will give him greater pleasure than beating Rangers — again. But John Greig, in his testimonial season, seems to have the goal-bug. He scored a superb goal against Dundee United in the Semi-Final, an effort worthy of even the one and only Pele. Aberdeen, however, aren't likely to be in a sentimental mood!



SHOOT!